



BCSPCA

Bark! Teacher's Guide
Spring 2025 Ideas for the Classroom

Animals and People, thriving together!



When people, animals and nature thrive together, we all win. Bring the **Caring Connections** game to life in your classroom by introducing students to the concept of interconnection. The board game can be used in class as a station during free play time. Or it can be used as a lesson to inspire students' wonder and curiosity about all that is around them!

Try these whole-class activities highlighting themes from the **Caring Connections** game in **Bark!**

GRADE 2 AND UNDER:

Follow the Leader!

This activity is about shared spaces and understanding how animals experience and share our spaces. Each student picks a companion, farmed or local wild animal. Students will move through the activity the way the animal would – on all four “paws”, flapping, or hopping.

Pick a large outdoor space and have the leader start off, with students

following. Safely go over, around, under, and through obstacles. Ask students about their experience navigating as an animal. This is how systems of connection work: We travel shared paths but experience them in our own ways.

Next, look around your school grounds. Look for spaces that people, animals, and nature share, such as the playground or a pathway near grass. Discuss how we can all use spaces equitably.



PRO TIP!

With any lesson on interconnections, focus on solutions, not problems.

Give students factual information and practical choices to improve situations. If a good choice does not exist, consider writing to companies or elected officials to ask for one!

When we look for “win-win-win” options, everyone thrives!



MORE ON THRIVING TOGETHER

Visit our website to learn more about the BC SPCA's new strategic plan and our exciting future for animals, people, and nature: sPCA.bc.ca/about-us/strategic-plan.

GRADE 3+:

Where does it come from?

Based on the True Cost activity from the Institute for Humane Education, investigate how an item or product we use daily (and likely take for granted) connects people, animals, and nature:

Take the humble pencil. **Where did the materials to make the pencil come from? Where is it made and by whom? How does it get to the store? Who buys it and what happens to it after it is no longer useful?**

The answers you uncover might surprise you and your students! It may even lead to making choices that help everyone thrive – a win-win-win!



Try it out!



Careers with Animals

Many adults recognize the BC SPCA's work in advocating for companion, farmed and wild animals, and you can use the pet food bank, farm rescue and wildlife articles in this issue of *Bark!* to introduce students to our work in age-appropriate ways.



During a community helpers' unit, read primary students the farm animal story on page 10 and share how the BC SPCA rescues orphaned wildlife and adopts homeless and abandoned animals. Encourage primary students to be eyes and ears for animals in their community. Ask them to tell an adult if they ever see an animal in need.



RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT:

Sit Spots at School!

If our sit spot article has you dreaming of doing more outdoor learning, check out this resource.

Lauren MacLean is a certified teacher and author of *Sitting With Nature: An Educator's Guide to Sit Spots*.

This outdoor learning guide is the companion to the children's book featured in *Bark!*, and includes weeks' worth of activities for primary and intermediate-level students. **The best part:** Lauren provides advice and tips for how you can integrate sit spots at school with success!



For intermediate students, introduce different jobs at the BC SPCA and read stories of people with who work with animals: spca.bc.ca/career-profiles-booklet-youth. Help students connect their skills, attitudes, and interests to a possible future animal career.

Look to our YouTube page and website (spca.bc.ca/news) for videos and stories to assist you!



BCSPCA
Teacher Resources



In partnership with **Live It Earth**, the BC SPCA is proud to offer a FREE online learning program for teachers! Includes: Indigenous perspectives, short videos, and creative, STEM and language arts lessons. Available in English and French, and connected to the BC curriculum for K to grade 7. Visit: spca.bc.ca/liveit.



BC SPCA CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS, RESOURCES AND MORE

The BC SPCA offers presentations, lessons, book lists, and materials for use in the classroom. Learn more at spca.bc.ca/teacher.

For monthly humane education inspiration and updates, subscribe to our e-teacher newsletter: spca.bc.ca/eteacher.



GET INVOLVED AND CONNECT WITH US!

Share how you are using BC SPCA humane education in your classroom.



education@spca.bc.ca