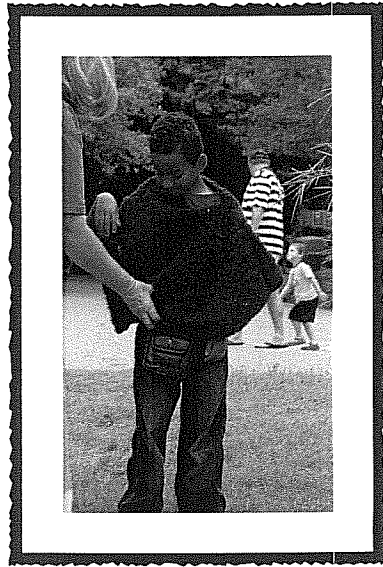


## The BEAR VEST!



Kids will start the bear maze by slipping on a fuzzy bear vest. These vests add lots of fun and are cheap and easy to make. No sewing necessary! Take ½ yard of fuzzy black fabric and fold it in half. Cut a small neck hole out of the top. You can also take the material from the neck hole and glue that on to the front to make a bear tummy pouch. As children make their way through the maze they will collect plastic frogs, grubs, berries and acorns. They will put their food into their tummy (the pouch on the front of the vest). At the end of the maze they will empty the contents of the pouch in a bucket and will receive a bear stamp or sticker in exchange.

## STOP 1 "SPRING"

**Message:** Bears live in wet forests and eat all sorts of plants and animals that live there.

**Activity:** Crawl across the log, catch a frog, and put it in your pocket.

**Instructions:** Put the blue tarp on the ground with the log across it. Spread out plastic frogs on the tarp (around the log) so the kids have to reach for a frog.



## STOP 2 "SUMMER"

**Message:** Bears aren't afraid of water. In fact, they are good swimmers.

**Activity:** Catch a fish and put it in your pocket.

**Instructions:** Put plastic fish in a large tub of water.

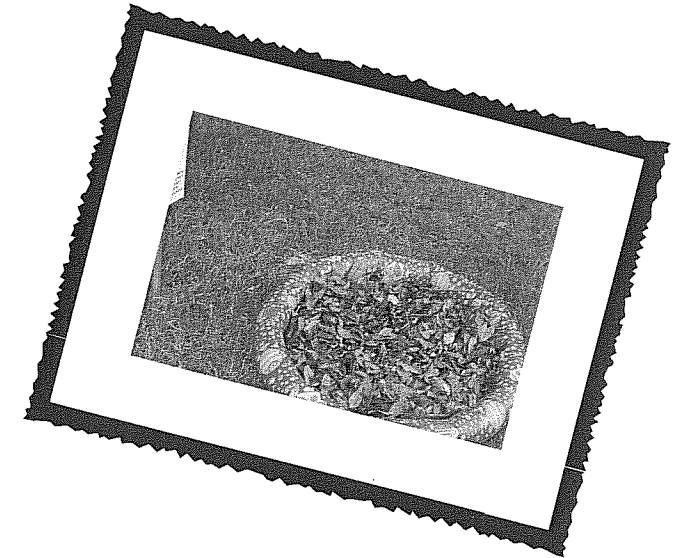


## STOP 3 "FALL"

**Message:** Fall is a very important time for bears. They need to eat lots of food to store up fat before they go into their winter den. Bears eat hard mast, like nuts and acorns during the fall.

**Activity:** Grab an acorn and put it in your pocket.

**Instructions:** Fill a kiddie pool with leaves, brush, and other stuff. Bury some acorns or something in the leaves.



## STOP 4 "WINTER"



**Message:** Bears need to find a den, or safe place to stay during the winter. When bears go into their dens, they won't need to eat or drink. Female bears also give birth in their dens.

**Activity:** Crawl through the den and come out on the other side - spring!

**Instructions:** Either a box tunnel of some sort to crawl through or you could just use some sort of structure (think large dog house) for them to crawl in and out of.

## STOP 5 "SPRING"

**Message:** Bears are REALLY hungry in spring after their long winter nap!

**Activity:** Look under the logs to find some grubs, salamanders, and other critters. Put one in your pocket.

**Instructions:** Section off an area. Fill the area with leaves, as well as some small logs, moss, or other materials. Bury some plastic worms and stuff underneath.

