



## Overview

The Montana State Library (MSL) and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) have formed a partnership to provide communities throughout Montana with a unique learning opportunity that unites the distinct missions of each agency together.

The Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunk provides childcare providers, preschools, early elementary educators, parents and caregivers an opportunity to share language, literacy, learning, and nature with some of Montana's youngest citizens, children from ages three – seven years old.

Part of MSL's statewide early literacy initiative, Ready 2 Read, Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! uses nature and Montana animals to spark kids' interest in language and literacy, math and science, and the natural world that surrounds them.

Each of the Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunks focuses on a theme. The themes for the current trunks include owls, ungulates (hooved animals), bears, and animal tracks. Each trunk includes puppets, a number of age-appropriate fiction and non-fiction books on the theme, rubber tracks, and animal parts, including items such as skulls, hides, antlers, feathers, and hooves. Additionally, all of the trunks are supplemented with a Growing Up Wild: Exploring Nature with Young Children activity guide.

The activity guide:

- is written especially for early childhood educators of children ages 3-7;
- features 27 field-tested, hands-on, nature-based activities;
- includes crafts, art projects, music, conservation activities, reading and math connections and much more;
- involves social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive domains to help foster learning and development in all areas;
- supports developmentally appropriate practices allowing children to learn at levels that are individually, socially, and culturally appropriate;
- is correlated to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards and the Head Start Domains.



<http://ready2readmontana.org/>

# Ready 2 Read!



The Montana State Library believes the Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! program will:

- make a wide range of early literacy materials available across the state to all Montanans;
- assist childcare and early education providers by supplying quality early literacy materials, lesson plans, and supplemental materials;
- help parents and caregivers understand the value of sharing language, literacy, and nature with their young children;
- supplement Montana libraries' existing early literacy collections with additional high-quality materials.

Children who participate in the activities that are made available through the Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunks will experience hands-on activities that are developmentally appropriate and designed to enhance students':

- Knowledge of and abilities to observe, describe, and discuss the natural world, materials, living things, and natural processes;
- Ability to sort, compare, and classify objects; display data with graphs and pictures; identify shapes; and make measurements;
- Capacity to hear and manipulate sounds, name and recognize letters, and deepen listening and speaking abilities;
- Interest and awareness of numbers and counting as a means for solving problems and determining quantity;
- Creativity to develop art projects as well as solve problems in new and interesting ways;
- Language and literacy skills.





## Borrowing Guidelines

The Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunks, which are a project of the Montana State Library and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks provide high-quality materials focusing on Montana wildlife with the goal of helping to encourage early literacy and language development in the youngest of Montana's library patrons, children ages 3 – 7.

### Guidelines

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- Anyone with a Montana library card in good standing is eligible to check out the Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! educational trunks.
- Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunks are subject to the borrowing guidelines established by the library from which the patron checks the trunk out.
- Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunks may be reserved according to the requesting library's reserve policies.
- Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunks may be renewed according to the renewal guidelines established by the library from which the patron checks the trunk out.
- Borrowers should inventory their trunk when they receive it and again before they return it. An inventory sheet is provided in all trunks for this purpose.
- Borrowers are not liable for wear and tear on the trunk contents as a result of normal use. Borrowers are responsible for the care and security of the trunk while it is in their possession. Any damage that occurs due to abuse of the trunks or its contents is the responsibility of the borrower.
- Borrowers are responsible for paying the replacement costs plus a 15% overhead fee to cover shipping, handling and processing of all damaged or lost contents of the Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunks.



<http://ready2readmontana.org/>



## Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! Trunk Questionnaire

Please complete this form so that we can provide data back to our funders and make the Ready 2 Read Goes Wild program even better.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, Phone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Age & Number of children in your classroom: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How effective do you feel the Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunk has been in improving your students' understanding of nature and the environment?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
none		moderately		increased		greatly		increased		

2. How effective do you feel the Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunk has been in improving your students' early literacy skills?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
none		moderately		increased		greatly		increased		

3. What subject areas / skills did the Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunk help you address with your students?

\_\_\_\_\_ Science \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Language Arts \_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor/ Nature learning

\_\_\_\_\_ Fine motor skills \_\_\_\_\_ Early Literacy



# Ready 2 Read!



4. Did you find the activities to be age-appropriate?

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

If not age-appropriate, please explain and give example:

What parts of the Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunk did you utilize? (Check all that apply).

\_\_\_ Puppets \_\_\_ Growing Up Wild Activity Guide \_\_\_ Books \_\_\_ Animal Parts \_\_\_ Rubber Tracks

5. What additional resources would be useful?

\_\_\_ In-service trainings \_\_\_ G UW web page \_\_\_ Educational trunks

\_\_\_ Other:

Please return to: Sara Groves, PO Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620, [sgroves@mt.gov](mailto:sgroves@mt.gov) , 406-444-5357  
OR you may complete this form at [http://ready2readmontana.org/goes\\_wild/](http://ready2readmontana.org/goes_wild/)



<http://ready2readmontana.org/>



## Bears Trunk Contents

### Animal Pieces

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- Bear hide
- Bear paws (rubber, front and back)
- Bear skull

### Puppets

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- Brown bear
- Grizzly bear cub

### Books

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- Welcome to the World of Bears by Diane Swanson
- Every Autumn Comes the Bear by Jim Arnosky
- Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith
- Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt By Michael Rosen
- Bears by Deborah Hodge
- The Legend of Sleeping Bear by Kathy-jo Wargin
- Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey
- Bear Feels Scared by Karma Wilson
- The Biggest Bear by Lynd Ward
- Once There Was a Tree by Natalia Romanova
- Don't Wake Up the Bear! By Marjorie Dennis Murray
- Backyard Bear by Anne Rockwell

### Curriculum Materials

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- Growing Up Wild Curriculum Guide
- See pages 26 & 27 for lesson plans, snack ideas, center and extension ideas, and more on bears.
- See page 75 for Black Bear Tracks.
- See page 75 for Food for Black Bears cards.
- See page 99 for a take-home Connections card.

### Songs

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## Tracks Trunk Contents

### Animal Parts

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- Wolf tracks (rubber, front and back)
- Cougar tracks (rubber, front and back)
- Beaver tracks (rubber, front and back)
- Striped skunk (rubber, front and back)
- Porcupine (rubber, front and back)

### Puppets

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- Raven
- Striped skunk or eagle
- Beaver

### Books

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- Footprints in the Snow by Cynthia Benjamin
- Forest Animals by Francine Galko
- Whose Tracks Are These? A Clue Book of Familiar Forest Animals by Jim Nail
- Tracks, Scats, and Signs by Leslie Dendy
- Tracks in the Snow by Wong Herbert Yee
- Big Tracks, Little Tracks: Following Animal Prints by Millicent E. Selsam
- Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith
- How Chipmunk Got His Stripes by Joseph Bruchac and James Bruchac
- Follow Those Feet! By Christine Ricci
- Wild Tracks: A Guide to Nature's Footprints by Jim Arnosky
- Turtle's Race with Beaver by Joseph Bruchac and James Bruchac
- In the Snow: Who's Been Here? By Lindsay Barrett George

### Curriculum Materials

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- Growing Up Wild Curriculum Guide
- See pages 36 & 37 for lesson plans, snack ideas, center and extension ideas and more on tracks.
- See page 81 for Animal Track Stencils.
- See page 80 for Track Puzzles.
- See page 101 for a take-home Connections card.

### Songs

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## Ungulates Trunk Contents

### Animal Pieces

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- Deer hoof
- Deer antler
- Elk antler
- Deer hide

### Puppets

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- Deer
- Fawn
- Moose

### Books

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- A House is a House for Me by Mary Ann Hoberman
- Stranger in the Woods by Carl R. Sams II & Jean Stoick
- First Snow in the Woods by Carl R. Sams II & Jean Stoick
- If You Give a Moose a Muffin by Laura Numeroff
- Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith
- Looking for a Moose by Phyllis R. Root
- The Deer in the Wood by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- Deer by Emily Rose Townsend
- Exploring Land Habitats by Margaret Yatsevitch Phinney
- Deer, Moose, Elk & Caribou by Deborah Hodge
- Whitetail Deer by Laura Evert
- How Chipmunk Got His Stripes by Joseph Bruhac and James Bruhac

### Curriculum Materials

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- Growing Up Wild Curriculum Guide
- See pages 40 & 41 (Backbone Bonanza) and 48 & 49 (Oh Deer!) for specific lesson plans, snack ideas, center and extension ideas,
- and more on ungulates.
- See page 66 for Animal cards.
- See page 84 for Vertebrate cards.
- See pages 102 and 103 for a take-home Connections card.

### Songs

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## Owls Trunk Contents

### Animal Pieces

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- Owl skull
- Owl pellet
- Owl talon

### Puppets

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- Owl

### Books

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- Owl Babies by Martin Waddell
- Owls: Animal Predators by Sandra Markle
- The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson
- The Littlest Owl by Caroline Pitcher
- Pass the Energy, Please! By Barbara Shaw McKinney
- Owls by Gail Gibbons
- Owls by Adrienne Mason
- Ookpik: The Travels of a Snowy Owl by Bruce Hiscock
- Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
- The Barn Owls by Tony Johnston
- Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith

### Curriculum Materials

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- Growing Up Wild Curriculum Guide
- See pages 30 & 31 (Who Lives in a Tree?), 42 & 43 (Bird Beak Buffet), and 46 & 47 (Owl Pellets) for specific lesson plans, snack ideas, center and extension ideas, and more on owls.
- See page 78 for Tall Oak Tree poem.
- See page 87 for bird cards.
- See page 90 for Food Chain Puzzles and Bone Chart.
- See pages 100, 102, and 103 for a take-home Connections card.

### Songs

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## Water Trunk Contents

### Books

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- I Am Water by Jean Marzollo
- Water Everywhere by Jill Atkins
- In the Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming
- Salmon Stream by Carol Reed-Jones
- Fish Eyes by Lois Ehlert
- Jump, Frog, Jump! By Robert Kalan
- A River Ran Wild by Lynne Cherry
- I Wonder Why the Sea is Salty and other questions about the oceans by Anita Ganeri
- A House for Hermit Crab by Eric Carle
- Ten Little Fish by Audrey Wood
- Swimmy by Leo Lionni
- Ocean Life From A to Z featuring the photography of Annie Crawley (includes DVD)
- A Drop Around the World by Barbara Shaw McKinney
- Granddad's Fishing Buddy by Mary Quigley
- A Good Day's Fishing by James Prosek
- Lakes and Rivers by Philip Johansson
- Fishing in a Brook: Angling Activities for Kids by Lawson Drinkard
- The Water Hole by Graeme Base

### Other Materials

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- Frog/Tadpole puppet
- Rubber fish mold: Large trout
- Rubber fish mold: Lake perch
- Rubber fish mold: Large mouth bass



# Ready 2 Read!



## Growing Up Wild Curriculum Activities Associated with Water

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- First Impressions, pages 10 – 11
- What's Wild, pages 22 – 23
- Wildlife is Everywhere, pages 24 -25
- The Deep Blue Sea, pages 28 – 29
- Fishing Fun, pages 32 – 33
- Grow As We Go, pages 38 – 39
- Backbone Bonanza, pages 40 – 41
- Aqua Charades, pages 54 – 55
- Wildlife Water Safari, pages 56 - 57





## Creepy-Crawlies Trunk Contents

### Books

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- The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle
- Dream Weaver by Jonathan London
- The Very Quiet Cricket by Eric Carle
- Ant Cities by Arthur Dorros
- The Itsy Bitsy Spider by Iza Trapani
- Wonderful Worms by Linda Glaser
- Wiggling Worms at Work by Wendy Pfeffer
- Are You a Grasshopper? By Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries
- The Life Cycle of an Earthworm by L.L. Owens
- The Ant and the Grasshopper by Graham Percy
- Peterson First Guide to Insects by Christopher Leahy
- The Icky Bug Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallota
- Earthworms by Claire Llewellyn
- The Life Cycle of a Grasshopper by Lisa Trumbauer
- I Wonder Why Spiders Spin Webs and other questions about Creepy-Crawlies by Amanda O'Neill
- A House Spider's Life by John Himmelman
- Diary of a Spider by Doreen Cronin

### CDs

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- Songs about Insects, Bugs & Squiggly Things

### Puppets

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- Caterpillar/Butterfly
- Praying Mantis

### Other Materials

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- Worm life cycle
- Ant life cycle
- Ladybug life cycle
- Plastic bug mold
- Giant magnetic insects
- Bug net

# Ready 2 Read!



## Growing Up Wild Activity Guide Curriculum Materials Associated with Creepy-Crawlies

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- First Impressions, pages 10 – 11
- Ants on Parade, pages 12 – 13
- Spider Web Wonders, pages 14 -15
- In a Grasshopper's World, pages 18 – 19
- Wiggling Worms, pages 20 – 21
- Wildlife is Everywhere, pages 24 – 25
- Who Lives in a Tree, pages 30 – 31
- Hiding in Plain Sight, pages 34 – 35
- Grow As We Go, pages 38 – 39
- Field Study Fun, pages 58 – 59





## Indian Trunk Contents

### Books

- Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back by Joseph Bruhac
- Between Earth and Sky: Legends of Native American Sacred Places by Joseph Bruhac
- Crow Children and Elders Talk Together by E. Barrie Kavasch
- Buffalo Song by Joseph Bruhac
- Crazy Horse's Vision by Joseph Bruhac
- Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith
- How Chipmunk Got His Stripes by Joseph Bruhac
- Turtle's Race with Beaver by Joseph Bruhac
- Bull Trout's Gift: A Salish Story about the Value of Reciprocity by Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe
- Brave Wolf and The Thunderbird: Tales of the People by Joseph Medicine Crow
- Owl's Eyes and Seeking a Spirit: Kootenai Indian Stories
- Billy Blackfeet in the Rockies by Marc Simmons
- Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story by Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe
- Stranger in the Woods by Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick
- First Snow in the Woods by Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick
- Whitetail Deer by Laura Evert
- Deer, Moose, Elk & Caribou by Deborah Hodge
- Every Autumn Comes the Bear by Jim Arnosky
- Bear Snores on by Karma Wilson
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
- The Legend of Sleeping Bear by Kathy-Jo Wargin
- Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey
- Backyard Bear by Anne Rockwell
- In the Snow: Who's Been Here? By Lindsay Barrett George
- Whose Tracks Are These: A Clue Book of Familiar Forest Animals by Jim Nail
- Tracks in the Snow by Wong Herbert Yee
- Big Tracks, Little Tracks: Following Animal Prints

### Puppets

- Raven
- Coyote
- Beaver
- Elk
- Frog/Tadpole

# Ready 2 Read!



## Other Materials

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- Bear hide
- Bear paws
- Bear skull
- Deer hoof
- Deer antler
- Deer hide
- Deer tracks
- Coyote tracks
- Cougar tracks
- Beaver tracks

