How to Care for a Bear

Where can I find Woolly Bear caterpillars?
- They can be found in lawns, shrubs, or on sides of houses.
- You can pick them up gently with your hands.

How do I care for my Woolly Bear?
- Put your Bear in a clear container with soil or paper towel on the bottom, and a lid with holes.
- Woolly bears eat goldenrod, dandelion, burdock, plantain, and some grasses. Feed your Bear fresh leaves daily.
- Clean out the frass (droppings) from the container often.
- Keep the container outside. A garage, shed, or even next to a house works well. The Woolly Bear must feel the cooling temperatures so it knows when to begin hibernating!

What do I do with my Woolly Bear in the Winter?
- When the weather turns colder, place dead leaves on the bottom of the container for the caterpillar to sleep under.
- Check your Bear often and mist with water if it looks dry.
- In the spring, when temperatures begin to reach 15°C, feed your caterpillar fresh leaves when it becomes active.

Help! My Woolly Bear made its cocoon!
- In the spring, and after your Bear makes its cocoon, the container can be moved indoors for easier observation.
- Place sticks in the container with the cocoon for the emerging moth to climb in order to dry its wings.
- Provide fresh flowers for your new moth to feed on.
- Release your moth outside a day or two after it emerges.