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## Who We Are

Headquartered in Concord, Mass., The Nature Connection is a non-profit organization that delivers live therapy animals and natural materials to individuals with developmental and physical disabilities in institutional settings. Nature brings joy and education to youth and adults with limited access to the outdoors, regardless of ability. Our therapeutic programs offer shared sensory experiences to spark movement and engage the spirit. We have served day habilitation and residential programs throughout Greater Boston since 1983.

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### The Benefits of Nature-Assisted Therapy for Individuals with Disabilities

- Sensory stimulation
- Hands-on engagement and relaxation
- Immersion in the natural world
- Joy and being present in the moment
- Diminished feelings of isolation
- Motivation for achieving occupational therapy goals
- Increased movement and self-sufficiency



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### Live Animals Bring Joy and Connection

Our therapy animals model strength, dignity and survival skills for at-risk individuals. Our animal "staff" include hedgehogs, chickens, cats, dogs, doves, owls, rabbits and more.

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### Natural Materials Offer A Sense of Well-being

We go outdoors and collect fresh seasonal materials and bring miniature natural habitats *indoors* to those who cannot go out. Materials may include moss, milkweed, fresh honey, fallen leaves, fragrant pine boughs, seeds and other materials found in the garden, pond or forest.

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### Our Program Model

- Programs are based on a modest fee-for-service scale based on site location, frequency of visits, and number of participants
- Programs are delivered over one year, monthly or bi-monthly
- Our Program Coordinators and dedicated volunteers lead each session; they include social workers, biology teachers, psychology interns, and other trained professionals
- New materials, plants, and animals are part of each visit

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## We bring nature. Nature does the rest.