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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 at-risk youth – including individuals with emotional, social, and behavioral difficulties - and other isolated groups in institutional settings. By recreating natural habitats indoors we engage the senses and offer hands-on exploration. We have served at-risk youth programs, residential schools, specialized treatment centers and foster programs throughout Greater Boston since 1983.

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### The Benefits of Nature-Assisted Therapy for At-Risk Youth

- Sensory stimulation
- Improved ability to learn
- Improved relationships with peers and caregivers
- Slowing down and being present
- Engaging in hands-on activities
- Taking healthy risks
- Becoming more resilient to stress and anxiety triggers
- Increased attention span
- Respecting the world around them



### 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.



### 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.



### 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

**We bring nature. Nature does the rest.**