

Elmer the Elephant Activity Ideas

Shaping Elephants: Buy some Playdough (or even better, try [making it](#)) and ask the children to try and mould it into an elephant. To give them a point of reference, you might like to try our [Playdough mats](#), which have an outline of an elephant for them to follow.



Make Elmer's Trunk: Collect together a selection of tubes (these could be anything from toilet roll tubes to cannelloni pasta, it depends on how big you want your trunk to be!) and ask the children to paint each one a different colour. When they are dry you can string them altogether and hang them up around the room, or even make lots and create a beaded door curtain!

Milk Bottle Elephant: This is a brilliant idea that I saw on [YouTube](#). Simply cut the top off a plastic milk bottle, underneath the handle, and decorate it with tissue paper or paint. The handle acts as the trunk and if you cut two semicircles into the bottom then they act as the legs.

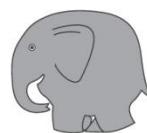
Giant Elephant: Draw the outline of an elephant on a large piece of paper and ask the children to cover it in a variety of multi-coloured tissue paper squared, to create your own patchwork elephant.

Story String: Some children find it difficult to keep track of the events that happen in a story and become bored. So try making a visual representation of the events by asking the children to draw the different events that happen in the story and pegging them onto a long piece of string.

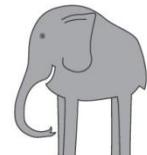
Songs about Elephants: Try turning the classic song 'Nellie the Elephant' into a song about Elmer, by changing the words to 'Elmer the Elephant packed her trunk and said goodbye to the circus'. There is quite a good version of the song on [YouTube](#).

Colours Song: After you have read through the story with the children ask them to try and remember as many colours on Elmer's body as they can. Then try singing the song 'heads, shoulders, knees and toes' but using the colours instead, so 'red, orange, green and blue'.

PSED: This is a good story to encourage children to talk about exclusion and the differences between people. Discuss with the children why Elmer was different and why she decided to paint herself with berry juice to be the same as the other elephants. Is it okay to be different? Have you ever felt left out of something?



Counting: As you go through the story ask the children to count all the different things they see. How many elephants are there? How many different colours is Elmer? How many berries are there on the bush?



Reading: Explore other books about elephants like The Story of Babar and Horton Hears a Who! For the full list have a look at our [elephant book list](#).

