

## Elephantastic!

### Early Years Foundation Stage

#### Summary

Pupils find out about friendship and acceptance through the story of Elmer and the behaviour of real elephants. They will develop communication, language and curriculum skills through active learning and creative thinking activities, as a team and individually. Threaded through the session is a recognition of what makes each of us unique.

Pupils will be able to visit the special exhibition *Elmer and Friends: The Colourful World of David McKee* to discover more of David McKee's characters.

#### Workshop Content

##### **Session 1: The Real Elmer (Museum Tutor led)**

- An introduction exploring what the children know about the characters in Elmer by David McKee.
- Elephant Empathy – do elephants talk like us? Discover the language of elephants and how they communicate.
- Carousel of activities:
  - Elephant maths with mirrors – does an elephant look like us? How are you different to me? Use mirrors to explore difference and change Elmer – can you make elephant friends for him to play with?
  - Trunk talk – work together to build Elmer's trunk and sequence a simple elephant tale to share verbally and develop back at school.
  - Ele-doodles – help Elmer draw like a real elephant would. Children's drawings in modelling dough can be taken back to school to paint and use in a class jungle picture.
  - Meet the family – work out who's who in the elephant herd and how they might sound. What do we have in common?
- Plenary to share noise words and elephant facts to show recall.

##### **Session 2: Celebrating Elmer Day (Museum Tutor led)**

- An introduction to celebrate Elmer Day. Pupils are divided into groups and given a role in the celebration – birds, trees, elephants or giraffes.
- Pupils learn and perform their role in a simple stop/start drama following the tutor's lead.
- Elephant creations – are we as big as an elephant? Problem-solving to make an elephant's face and fix it together.

- Plenary – pupils reprise the dance for Elmer Day with their elephant heads. They help magically return Elmer to his natural colourful state with colour patches showcasing their individual talents.

### **Galleries (Teacher Led)**

Visit the Museum galleries and the exciting exhibition *Elmer and Friends: The Colourful World of David McKee* on loan from Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children’s Books. The exhibition takes you on a journey into the imagination of the creator of classic books and characters including *Elmer the Patchwork Elephant*, *Mr Benn* and *Not Now, Bernard*. Explore Elmer’s jungle and, as if by magic, enter Mr Benn’s costume shop or simply immerse yourself in the visual feast of original illustrations, many on display for the first time.

### **Optional outdoor session (Teacher Led)**

Take your group outside to find out if an elephant could live in this habitat and create your own jungle den.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Pupils will investigate the link between the real animals and the characters in the story of Elmer, developing awareness of the wider world and different environments.
- Pupils will learn new vocabulary about animals including collective nouns and create their own onomatopoeic words
- Pupils will discover the themes of friendship and acceptance that run through the story and develop their speaking and listening skills through sharing their ideas
- Pupils will demonstrate motor skills, spatial awareness and co-ordination through the role play dance and practical activities

### **EYFS Framework Links**

#### **Communication and language:**

- Developing new vocabulary
- Developing confidence in expressing themselves
- Listening and giving attention to others
- Following instructions from an unfamiliar adult

#### **Physical development:**

- Developing co-ordination, movement and spatial awareness through mirroring actions

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:**

- Articulating feelings and having confidence in their ideas

- Working as part of the class

#### **Literacy:**

- Accessing different reading materials and understanding what they have read
- Coming up with simple sentences to share verbally

#### **Mathematics:**

- Counting and understanding numbers

#### **Understanding the world**

- Awareness of the similarities and differences in relation to places and living things
- Making observations of animals and plants

#### **Expressive arts and design:**

- Expressing ideas and feelings thorough art, dance and role play

### **Equipment**

#### **Equipment Provided by the Museum**

Clipboards

#### **Equipment to be Brought by the School**

Pencils

### **Follow-up Ideas**

- Visit <https://www.elmer.co.uk/activities/> for simple Elmer themed colouring and craft
- Find out more about real elephants and where they live. What challenges do they face?
- Imagine Elmer visited your school and the adventures he would get up to in your classroom. Create a storyboard about his day with you.
- Imagine you visited the Mr Benn's fancy dress shop. Who would you be and where would you go?

**Large print versions of all teachers' and pupils' material are available. Please ask for these when booking.**

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