

Getting Ready for Elephant Week

Suggested Books:

Stand back, said the Elephant, I'm going to Sneeze! By Patricia Thomas
The Elephant's Child by Rudyard Kipling
Twenty-One Elephants and Still Standing by April Jones Prince
I am a Little Elephant by Francois Crozat
Pennies for Elephants by Lita Judge
Elephants: A Book for Children by David Henry Wilson
But No Elephants by Jerry Smath
My First Jumbo Book of Shapes by James Diaz
Richard Scarry's Best Counting Book Ever
Elephants Can Paint Too! By Katya Arnold
No Matter What (Tempar Books) by Emma Dodd
Tarra & Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends by Carol Buckley
Ella the Baby Elephant by Kathleen Duey

Vocabulary Words:

Elephant, Egg, Elbow, emerald, east, ear, eye, eight, eleven, nine, earth, eggplant

Songs and Fingerplays:

The Elephant (poem)

The elephant has a trunk for a nose (bend at waist, hold arms down like trunk)
And up and down is how it goes (sway arms)
He wears such a saggy- baggy hide (sway arms)
Do you think two elephants could fit inside? (shrug)

An E from Me (Poem)

How to make your body into an E
To be a big E, Just sit right down.
Stretch your legs out, And try not to frown.
Hold out your left arm, Stretch it out far.
Bend your other arm, And there you are.

Elephant Web (song)

One Elephant went out to play
On a spider's web one day
He had such
Enormous fun!
That he called for another elephant to come!

Two elephants went out to play...

Animal Fair (Song)

We went to the animal fair
The birds and bees were there
The big baboon by the light of the moon
Was combing his auburn hair
The monkey fell out of his bunk.
Slid down the elephant's trunk.
The elephant sneezed
And fell on his knees
And what became of
the monkey, the monkey, the monkey!

The Gray Blue Jay

Song by Bryant Oden

Long ago and far away
There was a prince named Prince Ray
And one day young Prince Ray
Went outside to run and play
Then Prince Ray saw a blue Jay
That wasn't blue but gray.
Young Prince Ray said, "Hey Blue Jay –
Why aren't you blue why are you gray?"
The gray blue jay said, "hey Prince Ray
There's so many colors and they're all okay.
It's nice to be different I'm glad that I'm gray
Now would you like to play with a gray blue
jay?"
So Prince Ray and the gray blue jay
They did play the whole day
And that is the story of young Prince Ray
Long ago and far away.

Materials to Gather:**Dramatic Play:**

This week the color is gray. You might add a gray tablecloth to the toy table, with gray napkins. Maybe you have a gray purse or shoes your child can play with. Any gray doll clothes, be sure to set out to use. If you have an elephant statue, you might let it adorn the playhouse for the week, if it is not fragile.

Blocks:

Put plastic elephant toys in the blocks area. Encourage child to build a zoo or jungle and play with the elephant toys. If you bought both African and Indian elephants, help your child discover the differences between them. Let them “feed” the elephants in the block zoo. Add a blue paper shape for a watering pond.

Music:

The Elephant Lullaby by Tom Knight
The Elephant Song by Eric Herman

Projects:An Elephant Hunt

Go on a hunt with your child. You can pretend to dress up, or really do put on big “jungle” hats, and carry cameras (some parents might allow their child to play with guns, some don’t. If you have a “tranquilizer gun”, it could go on the hunt, as well.) Then you look for anything that starts with the same beginning sound as “eh-eh-elephant”. You and your child might look for eggs, earth, easel, eight, elbow (macaroni), eleven, elf, emerald, eraser, exercise (equipment), eye, earring, ear, earphones (ear plugs), eggplant. If the “e” item is small enough, bring it back to the calendar area to display it for the week. If it is too big, plant an “E” sticker on it, and come back to it often.

Letter E poster: Draw a large E on a sheet of construction paper. Make it nearly as big as the paper. Collect egg shells, rinse and dry. Then slightly crush them. Let child glue bits of egg shell onto the E shape. If you have enough shells, let child make two copies of the same picture. One to display, one you will save, and ultimately make into your child’s own alphabet book. If you’d like to make this activity even fancier, go ahead and color the eggs before or after you crack them open. For directions on natural food dyes, visit <http://chemistry.about.com/od/holidayhowtos/a/eastereggdyes.htm> The colored egg shells make a pretty picture, but if you didn’t have time to collect egg shells, then let your child make a collage of eyes and ears cut from magazines to glue to the E shape instead.

Nine Counting Book:

Cut Ten ovals from colored construction paper – any colors. Collect forty-five stickers – elephants would be nice, but even forty-five stars would be okay. With your child, make a counting book. Let him or her peel off one sticker, put it on one page. Write the number one. You can make dots for your child to trace, or write it for your child if he is not ready for pencil and paper activities yet. On the next page, put two stickers and write a number 2, etc. Continue until the ninth page is done. On the cover, print the word’s “My Counting Book” – but substitute your child’s name for “my”. Let him decorate it as he wishes. All this week, let him “read” the book to you at calendar time. Have him count each of the stickers on each page. Save the book.

Expressions

Using a large mirror, you and your child look into it and make funny faces. Open your eyes wide, and make your mouth into an “O”. Pull

your lips far apart with two fingers. Squish your cheeks together like your face got stuck in the door of a bus. Tell your child that another word for how your face looks is “expression”. Help him practice saying it. If he doesn’t notice right away, tell him that “expression” starts just like “elephant.” It is an “E” word. Take a picture of your child’s funny faces, and print them off for later. Tape them to the calendar area, and practice the new word “Expression”.

Elegant E’s

Set out glue, four craft sticks (popsicle sticks), glitter. Show child how to glue the sticks to make an E shape. Let him glue them, and sprinkle glitter over them. Allow to dry before displaying in the calendar area. Make several. You could put a refrigerator magnet on the back of one, and put it on your fridge.

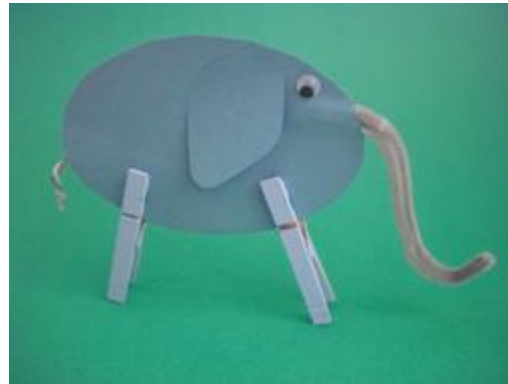
Make scrambled eggs

One day, teach your child how to scramble eggs. Remind him that the stove is hot, and keep a close eye on him. Let him crack several eggs into a bowl. You’ll have to pick out the shell bits. You can measure some milk into a measuring cup, then let him add that to the eggs. Let him use a fork or whisk to stir the eggs. Add a bit of salt or seasonings. Then, preheat a steel pan. Immediately before adding the eggs, pour a little vegetable oil in the hot pan, add the eggs and begin stirring with a spatula. Eggs cook quickly, but make sure they are cooked. Raw eggs can carry disease. Serve with toast, or dye them green and serve with ham ☺.

Emeralds

Color elbow macaroni bright green (same directions as for coloring rice.) Let dry. Then give child some yarn or string. Stiffen the tip of the yarn by painting it with glue and letting it dry, or wrapping it with masking tape. Tie a

large knot in one end to keep the pasta from slipping off. Let child string the Emerald Elbow pasta onto the string to make play jewelry. Tie the two ends together, and (optional) spray it with a shiny finish. Put in the dress-ups box. Teach your child the word “Emerald”, and that it is a precious green stone, and it starts with E.



Elephant Craft

You will need to pre-cut the pieces, which makes this less about art, and more about following directions. But it is cute, anyway. Cut two large ovals from gray or light blue construction paper for the elephant body. Two smaller ovals for his ears. Use two pinch-type clothes pins for his legs, and you or your child can paint them gray or blue to match the ovals. You will need a gray or blue pipe cleaner for the nose, and a piece of gray or blue yarn for the tail, and some wiggly eyes. To assemble: Child bends the pipe cleaner in half and shapes it into a curly trunk. Put glue all around the edge of one large oval. Put the pipe cleaner at one end, and the short tail at the other end, then lay the second oval on top and press together. Glue on eyes and ears, then pinch the clothes pins onto the bottom edge for legs. All done! (This craft and picture are taken from Busy Bee Kids Crafts.)

Hand Print Elephant

Dip child's hand in gray paint, and press it to white construction paper. Turn hand around so fingers become elephant legs, and the thumb is the trunk. Cut an oval from gray paper for an ear. Add an eye –either glue on a wiggly eye, or cut a small black dot, or draw it with marker after the paint has dried. Add a bit of a tail, and the elephant is done! You can add "E is for Elephant" to the picture, if you wish. (Craft and picture from Busy Bee Kids Crafts).

Feed the Elephant

Color a picture of an elephant and tape it to the side of a box. Let child toss peanuts into the box. If you spread a sheet under the box, clean up will be easier. Simply pick up the sheet and

shake it into the box. Encourage the child to taste the peanuts (If you are sure your child is not peanut allergic!). Be careful if doing this in a preschool setting, as peanut allergies are almost epidemic. If your child can eat peanut butter, he can eat peanuts.

Backyard Safari

Set up a tent – toy or real. Set out toy binoculars. Wear shorts and boots and a hat. Hike through the backyard looking for imaginary wild animals. How many can you find? Where will you put them? What will you feed them? Let them all go at the end of play.

Egg Game

You will need several small items that start with the E sound, and a few that don't, and a bunch of empty plastic Easter eggs. Items may include earring, tiny elephant, evergreen twig, erasers, picture of ear, or earmuffs, picture of eyes, etc. Hide the items inside the eggs and put them in a basket. To play the game, the child takes an egg, opens it, and tells you if the item begins with the E sound.

E is for Elephant: Monday

Date: _____

Concepts: Ee, 9, Oval, gray

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Practice vocabulary words & concepts. Teach the Elephant Poem and motions
7:45	Breakfast: Eggs. Rinse shells and save for pm craft.
8:00	Table Activities: Mr. Potato Head, if you have it. Point out that eye and ear start with E.
8:15	Free Play: Set out props in dramatic play, blocks, music, & books areas.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time: play with hose. Make E shapes with water on the pavement.
11:15	Project: Elephant Hunt
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash hands
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Build elephant homes in sand box. "plant" some tree branches that might have blown down in the wind. Put plastic elephants in the sandbox.
4:30	Table Time: Letter E Beginning Sounds and E is for Elephant coloring page, if child is ready.
4:45	Project: Letter E poster.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed

E is for Elephant: Tuesday

Date: _____

Concepts: Ee, 9, Oval, gray

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Vocabulary words; Songs Teach Elephant Web song.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Puzzles Do you have the Elephant Puzzle by Melissa & Doug?
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time: Take the dolls on a picnic lunch. Pack the gray tablecloth to sit on
11:15	Project: Number Nine counting book
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: ride tricycle.
4:30	Table Time: Drawing Ovals worksheet
4:45	Project: Expressions activity. Elegant Es craft.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

E is for Elephant: Wednesday

Date: _____

Concepts: Ee, 9, Oval, gray

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Vocabulary words; review songs. Teach Animal Fair song.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Playdough Shape playdough snakes into the letter E, or e.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside: build an obstacle course: go over the picnic table, under the swings, up the slide, crawl under the sheet, etc. Go through the course. Do the course faster. Do it backwards. Do it crawling on your hands and knees. Pretend you are an elephant.
11:15	Project: Make Scrambled Eggs together. Eat them for lunch. Do you want to dye them green?
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: play with balls. Practice throwing, catching, bouncing.
4:30	Table Time: Nine Seahorses worksheet. Counting worksheet.
4:45	Project: Emeralds. Child strings colored elbow macaroni to make jewelry.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

E is for Elephant: Thursday

Date: _____

Concepts: Ee, 9, Oval, gray

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Vocabulary; Songs. Listen to The Gray Blue Jay. Listen again and try to sing along. Talk about how it is okay to be different.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Lacing Cards Make a large E for child to lace.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside: Go to the park. Swing, run, and slide.
11:15	Project: Elephant Craft
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: free play
4:30	Table Time: Number 9 coloring page, Elephant coloring page
4:45	Project: Handprint Elephant painting
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journal
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

E is for Elephant: Friday

Date: _____

Concepts: Ee, 9, Oval, gray

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Vocabulary words; Songs.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: cutting practice worksheet (If you can go to the zoo, enjoy the elephants and skip today's activities!)
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside: Play in the splash pool. Supervise carefully. You could put some dish soap in the pool, and have child pretend to be an elephant taking a bath.
11:15	Project: Feed the Elephant game.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside: Go on a safari in the backyard.
4:30	Table Time: practice making Es with dry erase markers on dry-write board.
4:45	Project: Egg game.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journal
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.