

Experience - Gray Elephants

INDIA

Materials Needed: Picture of an elephant, black paint, white paint, paintbrushes, paper plates, thick paper, or cookie sheets (ziplock bags for infants and young toddlers).

Show children the picture of the elephant. Talk about the characteristics of elephants. For example: They live in a far away place called India. They are very big and heavy. They use their trunk like an arm/hand. They are usually gray in color. They have big ears. Ask children if they have ever seen an elephant. If so, where?

Do this elephant poem:

*Five little elephants standing in a row (show 5 fingers)
Five little trunks waving to and fro (wave arm in front of body like driving a truck)
"Good day" said the elephant, "I must go." (wave goodbye)
Four little elephants standing in a row (show 4 fingers)
Continue with 4,3,2
One little elephant standing in a row (show one finger)
"Good day" said the elephant, "I must go." (wave goodbye)
No little elephants left in a row*

At another time, explain to children that they are going to mix black paint and white paint together to make gray paint. Place a dollop of black paint on the paper. Be sure and say that the paint is black. Then, add a dollop of white paint onto the paper. Be sure and say that the paint is white. Encourage children to mix the paint together using their hands, fingers, or paintbrushes to make gray. Talk about what they are doing as they are doing it. Remember to talk about elephants being gray.

Individualization/Age Accommodation

Younger infants- Do poem and motions in front of them. Gently help them to move their arms like trunks and wave goodbye. Place the paint in sealed ziplock bags and tape them down to trays. Supervise closely!

Older infants- Same as above but gently help them open their hands for 5-4-3-2-1.

Younger toddlers- Place a dollop of black and white paint in ziplock bag and seal tightly (tape, if necessary) Place baggie on a cookie sheet or on a table so they can easily manipulate the paint inside the bag.

Older toddlers- Individual trays or cookie sheets work best for this age group.

Twos- Encourage them to show you the 5,4,3,2,1 fingers and to help you say the poem. Repeat poem several times.

Repetition helps children to feel successful. Emphasize rhyming words in the poem. Help children to count 5 things.

Domains- Concepts/Skills

State Standards

Physical- smearing, painting, motions in poem
Language- elephants, gray, big, heavy 1-5
Cognitive- Science- characteristics of elephants;
Math- color, numbers 1-5; Cultural/Social Studies-
elephants in India
Social/Emotional- confidence in abilities
Approaches to Learning- initiative, interest in the
world around them

AL: PD-6, 5, 3; LLD-7, 8, 3; CD-14, 12, 3; SED-4, 7, 6
FL: PD-Ba2; LLD-A1a; CD-C1; SED-D4b; AL-A1
GA: PDM3.0b, 1b, 2b; CLL-.0a, 1a, 2a; CD-MA4.0a, 1a, 2a; SED1.0c, 1c, 2c;
APL2.0b, 1b, 2b
NC: HPD-4a, 4e, 4h; LDC-7b, 7e, 7i; CD-12a, 12c, 12e; ESD-2b, 2e, 2i; APL-7b, 7d, 7f
NJ: PD-51-1, 3, 2; LDC-33-5, 2, 2;; CD-41-2, 2, 1; SED-15-3, 1, 1; AL-23.4, 2, 4
SC: HPD-4a, 4e, 4h; LDC-7b, 7e, 7i; CD-12a, 12c, 12e; ESD-2b, 2e, 2i; APL-7b, 7d, 7f
TN: PD-0-12..2, 13-24.2, 25-36.2; LE-0-12..3, 13-24.3, 25-36.3; MA-0-12.2, 13-24.2,
25-36.2; SE-0-12..4, 13-24.4, 25-36.4; AL-0-12.6, 13-24.6, 25-36.6

Extension Experiences

- ★ Grey Shaving Cream- Color shaving cream with a drop of black and white paint. Allow children to mix and spread using paintbrushes. [Concepts/Skills: Physical/ science/ math/ social-emotional/ language]
- ★ Elephant Stomp- Talk about elephants being very big and heavy. Invite them to stomp their feet like an elephant. Ask them to stomp 5 times, 4 times, 3 times, 2 times, and 1 time. For infants- Gently help them move their legs up and down in a stomping type motion. [Concepts/Skills: Physical/ math/ science/ culture/ language/ social-emotional/ approaches to learning]