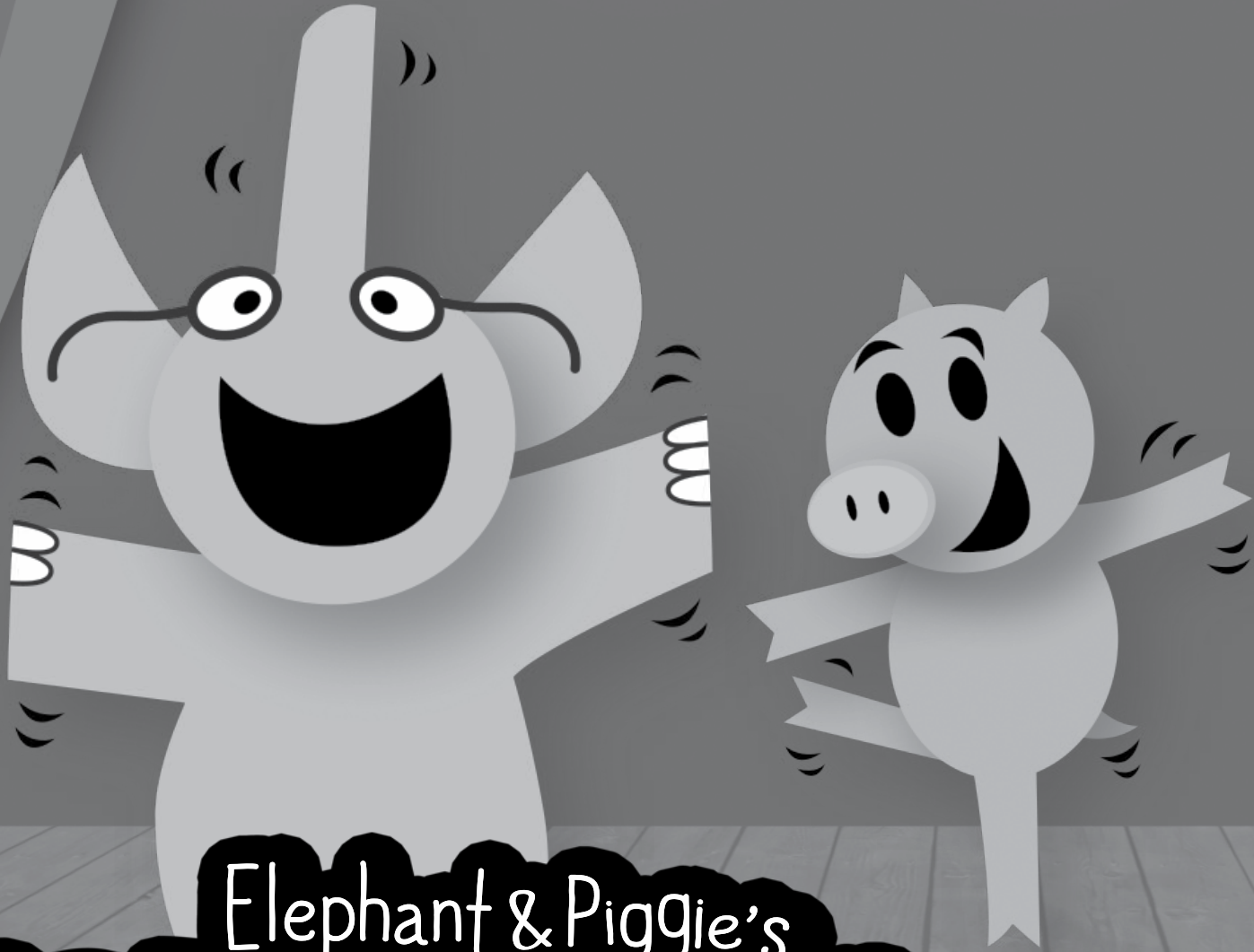


SEPTEMBER 21–NOVEMBER 3



Elephant & Piggie's
**we are in a
PLAY**

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A NOTE TO TEACHERS AND PARENTS

ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE "WE ARE IN A PLAY"

Dear Educators and Parents,

This fall, the two "bestus" friends in the world bring their adventures from the page to the stage! Mo Willem's award-winning children's series gets a musical twist as Elephant, Piggie, and friends star in their very own show. Laughter and joy for the whole family are guaranteed in First Stage First Steps': ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE'S "WE ARE IN A PLAY!"

Enclosed in this enrichment guide is a range of materials and activities intended to help you discover connections within the play through the curricula. It is our hope that you will use the experience of attending the theater and seeing ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE'S "WE ARE IN A PLAY" with your students as a teaching tool. As educators and parents, you know best the needs and abilities of your students. Use this guide to best serve your children—pick and choose, or adapt, any of these suggestions for discussions or activities. We encourage you to take advantage of the enclosed student worksheets—please feel free to photocopy the sheets for your students, or the entire guide for the benefit of other teachers.

Enjoy the show!

Julia Magnasco
Education Director
(414) 267-2971
Julia@firststage.org

First Stage Policies

- The use of recording equipment and cameras are not permitted during the performance.
- Food, drink, candy and gum are not permitted during the performance.
- Electronic devices are not permitted in the theater space.
- Should a student become ill, suffer an injury or have another problem, please escort him or her out of the theater space.
- In the unlikely event of a general emergency, the theater lights will go on and the stage manager will come on stage to inform the audience of the problem. Remain in your seats, visually locate the nearest exit and wait for the stage manager to guide your group from the theater.

Seating for people with special needs: If you have special seating needs for any student(s) and did not indicate your need when you ordered your tickets, please call our Assistant Patron Services Manager at (414) 267-2962. Our knowledge of your needs will enable us to serve you better upon your arrival to the theater.

SETTING THE STAGE SYNOPSIS

The play begins with some confusion as Elephant (Gerald) and Piggie enter the stage and frantically look for each other. They narrowly miss each other many times and even walk right past each other before finally sharing a massive hug and singing “Lucky to See You”.

The two friends are very excited because they plan on spending the day together- even though they have no idea what they will be doing. Looking for ideas, Gerald and Piggie begin skipping, quickly play a round of ping pong, put on silly hats- then do all three games at the same time! Then, Delivery Dog arrives with a letter for Piggie. It’s an invitation to a party hosted by the Squirrelles!

Piggie is nervous because she has never been to a party before, but Gerald assures her that he can help because he “knows parties”. Unsure of what kind of party it will be, Gerald and Piggie dress up for a fancy, pool, costume party. Piggie is confused, but Gerald reminds her that he is the expert. When they arrive at the Squirrelles, it’s revealed that Gerald was right about the party all along! The fancy, pool, costume party begins with a song: “Swimmy! Fancy!”

The whole party is dancing and having a great time, except for Gerald who believes that he can’t dance. The Squirrelles and Piggie attempt to teach Gerald with no success, which causes Gerald to throw a tantrum. The Squirrelles mistake Gerald’s tantrum for a new dance called “The Elephant” and Gerald teaches them the moves.

Piggie then gets an idea and leaves the stage. She then returns with a trumpet. Piggie plays very loudly and out of tune; so loud that her trumpet sounds blow everybody away (literally!) Gerald tells her kindly that her trumpet sounds do not sound like music, but Piggie stops him, saying that she wasn’t trying to play music- she was trying to say “thank you” in elephant. Gerald is flattered, and uses her trumpet to demonstrate a proper “elephant accent”.

After a “best off”, where the two friends duel over who can say “you’re the best” to the other first, Piggie announces that she has to leave. Gerald is devastated and sings “Don’t Go”, where he demands to know why his friend is leaving him. The drama subsides when it’s revealed that Piggie just has to use the bathroom.

While Piggie is away, Ice Cream Penguin appears. Gerald buys an ice cream cone, and debates whether he should share it with Piggie or not. The Squirrelles convince him to share and he breaks into song: “Ice Cream Hero”. During Gerald’s long song, his ice cream melts. Gerald is distraught, but soon, Piggie appears with an ice cream cone of her own which she shares with him.

Piggie reveals another surprise: a brand new toy! (“Ode to Toy”) Gerald asks to play with it, and Piggie hesitates before finally giving in. Gerald throws the toy in the air to see if it is a flying toy (it is not). The toy slams into the ground and breaks in two. Piggie is beside herself and lashes out at Gerald (“Toy Breaker”). Then, the Squirrelles realize that Piggie’s toy is a “snap and break toy”, which is designed to break on purpose. Piggie apologizes to Gerald for the misunderstanding (“Elephant in the Room”). The two friends make up.

Gerald notices the audience watching and realizes that he and Piggie are onstage. The friends lead a call-and-response song with the audience: “We’re in a Play”. Afterwards, Piggie asks Gerald what will happen when the play is over. Gerald hadn’t thought of this and panics, realizing that the play is nearly over. Piggie reassures Gerald that everything will be alright: “We’ll Still Be Friends”. Celebrating the success of their very own play, the company sings “We’ve Been Lucky” and thanks the audience for joining them as the show ends.



RECOMMENDED READING

Books by Mo Willems

Elephant and Piggie Series

Time to Say "Please"!
You Can Never Find a Rickshaw When It Monsoons
Today I Will Fly!
My Friend is Sad
There Is a Bird on Your Head! —Geisel Medal 2008
I Am Invited to a Party!
I Love My New Toy!
I Will Surprise my Friend!
Are You Ready to Play Outside? —Geisel Medal 2009
Watch Me Throw the Ball!
Elephants Cannot Dance!
Pigs Make Me Sneeze!
I Am Going!
Can I Play Too?
We Are in a Book! —Geisel Honor 2011
I Broke My Trunk! —Geisel Honor 2012
Should I Share My Ice Cream?
Happy Pig Day!
Listen to My Trumpet!
Let's Go for a Drive! —Geisel Honor 2013
A Big Guy Took My Ball! —Geisel Honor 2014
I'm a Frog!
My New Friend Is So Fun!
Waiting Is Not Easy! —Geisel Honor 2015
I Will Take a Nap!
I Really Like Slop!
The Thank You Book

Pigeon Series

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! —Caldecott Honor 2004, Charlotte Zolotow Commendation
The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog!
The Pigeon Loves Things That Go!
The Pigeon Has Feelings, Too!
Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!
The Pigeon Wants a Puppy! (I Really Do!)
The Duckling Gets a Cookie!? —
Irma Black Award Honor 2013
Don't Let the Pigeon Finish this Activity Book!
The Pigeon Needs a Bath! (I Do Not!)

Knuffle Bunny Series

Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale —Caldecott Honor 2005, Charlotte Zolotow Honor 2005
Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity
—Caldecott Honor 2008
Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion

Cat the Cat Series

Cat the Cat, Who Is That?
Let's Say Hi to Friends Who Fly
What's Your Sound, Hound the Hound?
Time to Sleep, Sheep the Sheep!

Unlimited Squirrels Series

I Lost My Tooth!

Because, illustrated by Amber Ren

City Dog, Country Frog —Charlotte Zolotow Honor
The Story of Diva and Flea, illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi
Nanette's Baguette
Sam, the Most Scaredy-cat Kid in the Whole World
Welcome: A Mo Willems Guide for New Arrivals
A Busy Creature's Day Eating

Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct
Leonardo, the Terrible Monster
—Charlotte Zolotow Commendation
Time to Pee!

Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed
Big Frog Can't Fit In: A Pop Out Book
Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs
—Irma Black Award Honor 2013

That is NOT a Good Idea! —Irma Black Award Winner 2014
Don't Pigeonhole Me! 2 Decades of the Mo Willems Sketchbook
Hooray for Amanda and Her Alligator!



ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Taken directly from: <https://www.mtishows.com/people/deborah-wicks-la-puma>

A composer, music director and orchestrator, Deborah Wicks La Puma is one of the most produced Theatre for Young Audiences artists working today. With bestselling children's author Mo Willems, she has created *ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE'S: WE ARE IN A PLAY* (The Kennedy Center), and *NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED: THE ROCK EXPERIENCE* (Seattle Children's Theatre). Her many and diverse works with playwright Karen Zacarías include *ELLA ENCHANTED* (based on the book by Gail Carson Levine), *OLIVÉRIO: A BRAZILIAN TWIST* (The Kennedy Center), *FRIDA LIBRE* (La Jolla Playhouse), *LOOKING FOR ROBERTO CLEMENTE* (Imagination Stage) and *EINSTEIN IS A DUMMY* (The Alliance Theatre). With playwright Doug Cooney, La Puma created *NOBODY'S PERFECT* (based on the book by Marlee Matlin), a bilingual musical in English and American Sign Language, commissioned by Very Special Arts and the Kennedy Center. Upcoming 2019 premieres include *SHE PERSISTED* (based on the book by Chelsea Clinton) with Adam Tobin at Bay Area Children's Theatre, and *DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS: THE MUSICAL* with MO WILLEMS at the Kennedy Center. Her adult works include the lyric opera *DAKOTA SKY* and the Mexican folk musical *PERDITA* (based on Shakespeare's *THE WINTER'S TALE*) with Kathleen Cahill; and Cornerstone Theater Company's *MAKING PARADISE: THE WEST HOLLYWOOD MUSICAL*. She received her MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, her bachelor's degree from Stanford University, and she studied folk music with ethnomusicologist Alfredo López Mondragón. Her honors include the Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, an NEA New American Works Grant, two Parents' Choice Awards, and a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical Adaptation. A proud Mexican-American and "Navy brat" who grew up in Brazil, Portugal and California, La Puma is a member of TYA USA/ASSITEJ, ASCAP and The Dramatists Guild. Mother to three daughters and Mimi the Cat, La Puma lives in Southern California with her PR agent and loving husband, Chris.

PRE-SHOW QUESTIONS

1. *ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE'S "WE ARE IN A PLAY!"* is based on a popular series of books by Mo Willems. Have you ever read or heard an *Elephant and Piggie* story? What do you know about the characters Elephant and Piggie?
2. Actors in the play will be on stage very close to you, and sometimes they may even ask you a question or interact in other ways with you! What are some appropriate behavior choices we should make when we are watching the play?
3. Elephant and Piggie do many activities together as friends. What are some fun things that you enjoy doing with your friends?
4. Elephant and Piggie will be appearing in a play and sharing things about themselves with the audience. If you were the star of your own play what would you call it? What sort of things would happen in your play?

CONTENT ADVISORY

This play is suitable for friends of all ages.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: MO WILLEMS

Taken directly from: <https://www.mtishows.com/people/mo-willems>

#1 New York Times Bestseller Mo Willems began his career as a writer and animator for PBS' Sesame Street, where he garnered 6 Emmy Awards for his writing. During his nine seasons at Sesame Street, Mo also served as a weekly commentator for BBC Radio and created two animated series, Nickelodeon's *The Off-Beats* and Cartoon Network's *Sheep in the Big City*.

While serving as head writer for Cartoon Network's #1 rated show, *Codename: Kids Next Door*, Mo began writing and drawing books for children. His debut effort, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* became a New York Times Bestseller and was awarded a Caldecott Honor in 2004. The following year *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale* was awarded a Caldecott Honor. The sequel, *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity* garnered Mo his third Caldecott Honor in 2008. In addition to picture books, Mo created the Elephant and Piggie books, a series of "Easy Readers", which were awarded the Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal in 2008 and 2009 and a Geisel Honor in 2011. For older audiences he has published an illustrated memoir of his year-long trip around the world in 1990-91 entitled *You Can Never Find a Rickshaw When It Monsoons*.

Mo's drawings, wire sculptures, and ceramics (done in collaboration with his father) have exhibited in numerous galleries and museums across the nation and his graphic story about his family experiences during 9-11 for DC comics resides in the Library of Congress' permanent collection.

Mo has been heard on NPR's All Things Considered where he occasionally serves as the broadcast's 'Radio Cartoonist'. While no longer working in television, Mo voices and produces animated cartoons based on his books with Weston Woods studios. The animated *Knuffle Bunny* was awarded Best Film during the New York International Children's Film Festival in 2008 and received the Andrew Carnegie Medal in 2007. The animated *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* garnered Mo his second Carnegie Medal in 2010. Mo wrote the script and lyrics for *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*, commissioned by the Kennedy Center for its 2010 season. Mo lives in Massachusetts with his family.



IT'S SHOWTIME!

Theatre Etiquette Activity

Adapted from: <http://www.louisvilleorchestra.org/wp-content/uploads/audience-etiquette-activity.pdf> , <http://www.musical-theater-kids.com/theater-etiquette.html>

There are many people involved, both on stage and behind the stage, who are working to put on the best performance possible for you and the rest of the people in the audience. Unlike watching television or a movie, the performers and crew can see and hear the audience members—therefore, it is the audiences' job to watch and listen carefully to the action on stage. The audience helps the performers and crew concentrate on doing their job when we practice the rules of theater etiquette.

- Visit the restroom **before** the performance begins.
- **Don't** speak during the performance...whispering is still speaking, so make sure you are only speaking in an emergency.
- **Do not** eat or drink in the theater.
- **Do not** put your feet up on the seats or balcony and do not kick the seat in front of you.
- **Do not** put or throw anything on the stage.
- **Do** laugh when the performance is funny.
- **Do** applaud when it is appropriate during the performance.
- **Do** applaud when the performance is over...this tells the performers and crew that you appreciate their work.

CONTINUED ACTIVITY:

1. Hand out the included worksheet to students.
2. As a class, go through the different event locations listed on the worksheet and discuss each event.
What can you do there? What can't you do there? Why?
3. Fill out the worksheet using "Always, Sometimes or Never". Ask students why they think we behave differently at these different places (different atmospheres, expectations, traditions, etc.).
4. Discuss in detail the behavior expectations we have at the theater.

IT'S SHOWTIME!

Theatre Etiquette Activity

Adapted from: <http://www.louisvilleorchestra.org/wp-content/uploads/audience-etiquette-activity.pdf> , <http://www.musical-theater-kids.com/theater-etiquette.html>

Look at the different events listed across the first row in the table below. For each event, fill in ALWAYS, SOMETIMES or NEVER with the listed behavior expectations. Note the different behavior expectations there are for different events we attend.

BEHAVIOR	BASEBALL GAME	CHURCH/ WORSHIP SERVICE	LIVE THEATRE PERFORMANCE	ROCK CONCERT	MOVIE THEATER
CHEER					
CLAP POLITELY					
TALKING TO THOSE AROUND YOU					
EATING					
STANDING UP AND WALKING AROUND					

BECOMING ELEPHANT!

Classroom Art and Dramatic Play Activity

Taken directly from: <https://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mplate-elephant.htm>

MATERIALS

Grey paint and paintbrush.

Paper plate.

Markers.

Scissors.

Glue.

Paper.

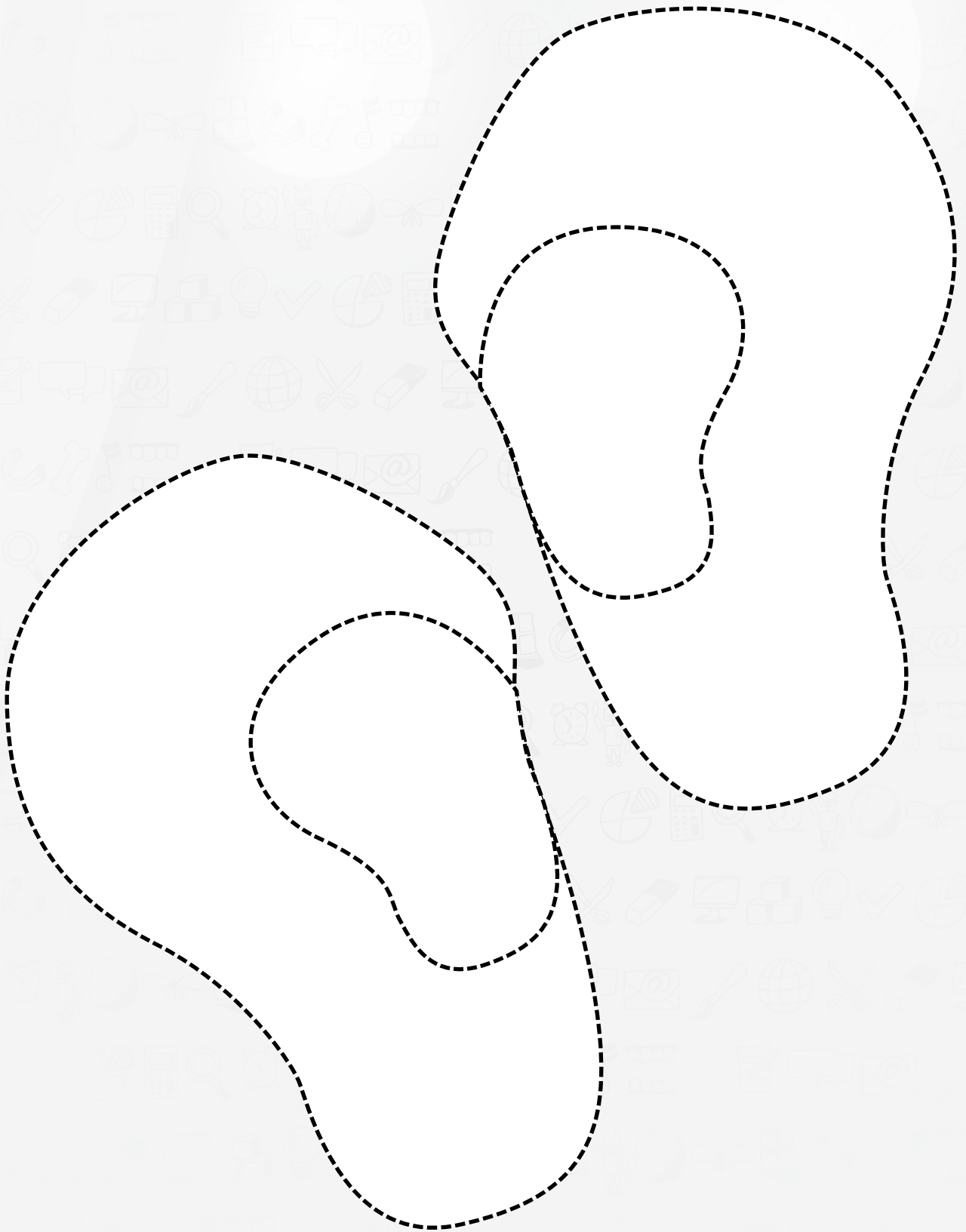
Printer.

Paint stir stick crafts, thin strip of wood or tongue depressors.

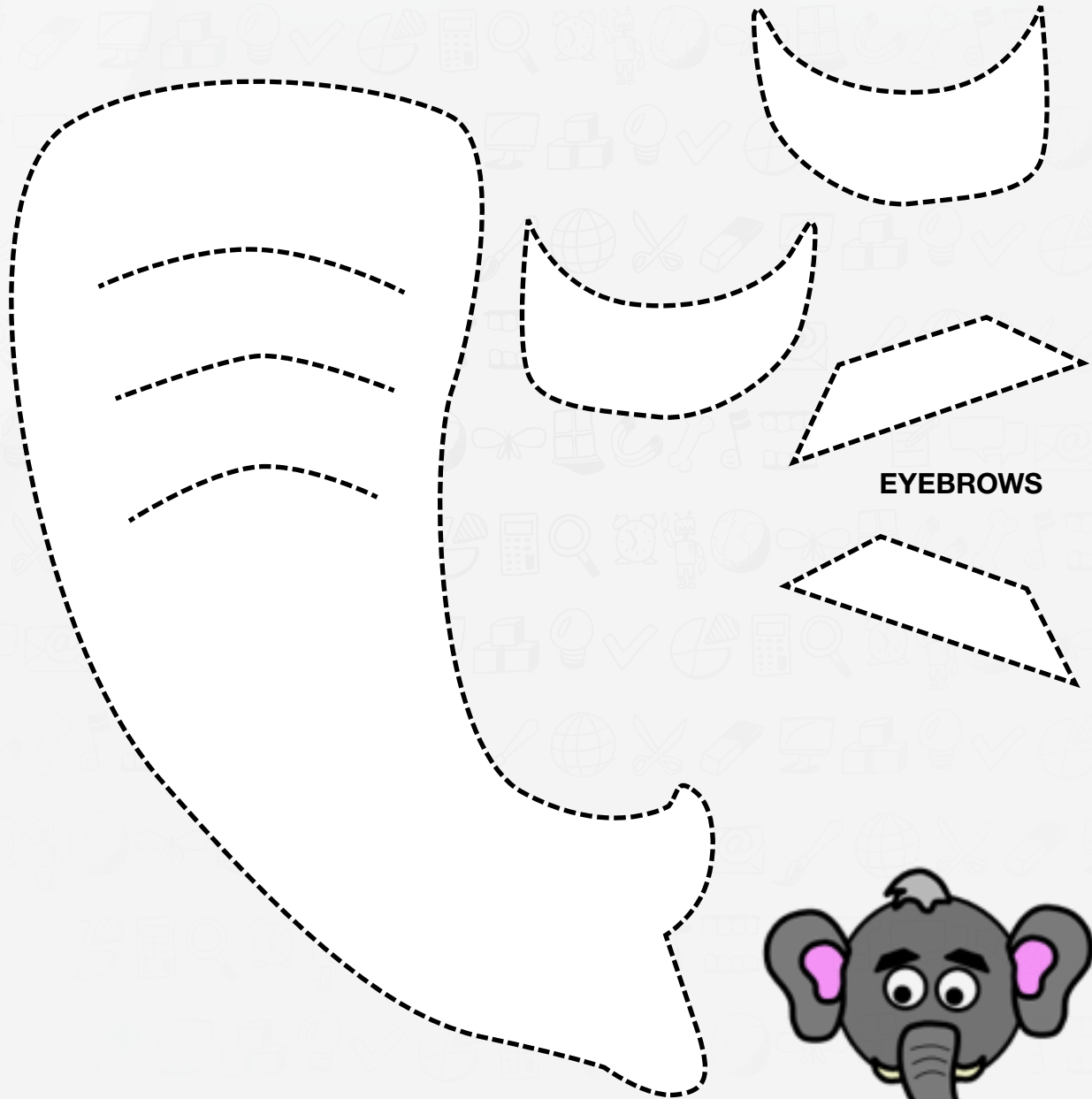
INSTRUCTIONS

1. Paint the bottom of the paper plate grey.
2. Print out the craft template of choice.
3. Color and cut out the template pieces. Most of the pieces are simple enough shapes for young children to cut out, but if needed, an adult can help with some of the harder pieces (the hair).
4. Glue the pieces to the plate to make an elephant face. Glue trunk on the bottom of the face.
5. Glue the tusks on either side of the trunk.
6. Glue the ears onto either side of the head.
7. Glue the hair onto the center top of the head.
8. Glue the eyes onto the face above the trunk and under the hair (or cut out holes for eyes in a mask).
9. Glue the eyebrows above the eyes.
10. Draw on elephant's glasses.
11. Attach a stick to the bottom on the mask.

ELEPHANT MASK TEMPLATE



ELEPHANT MASK TEMPLATE



HOW IT LOOKS WHEN FINISHED

BECOMING PIGGIE!

Classroom Art and Dramatic Play Activity

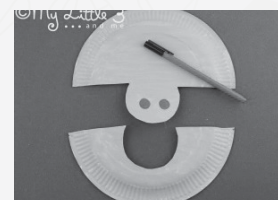
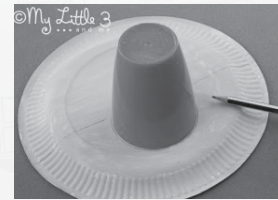
Taken directly from: <http://mylittle3andme.co.uk/make-a-paper-plate-pig-mask/>

MATERIALS

- 1 large paper plate.
- Pink paint.
- Stapler.
- Felt pen.
- Elastic.
- Small cup.
- Pencil.
- Eraser.
- Scissors.

ACTIVITY

1. Paint the paper plate pink and allow to dry.
2. Using a pencil, draw a light line across the plate to divide it in half. Place your cup slightly over the line in the middle of the plate and draw lightly around it to mark out the snout.
3. Cut it out and draw on the snout features.
4. Cut the remaining piece of plate in half. Then cut off the ridged edge using two straight lines to make ears. Use the picture above as a guide.
5. Staple the ears in place.
6. Make a small hole on either side of the mask, thread the elastic through, and tie with a knot.
7. Measure the mask against the wearer. You may need to cut away a little section on either side for the eyes.



MAKING A MUSICAL Classroom Music Activity

Taken directly from: <http://lessonplanspage.com/musicrhythmcanonactivityk5.htm/>

ACTIVITY

1. Have students sit in a circle.
2. Begin a 4/4 rhythm by gently slapping hands on thighs.
3. Once the rhythm has been established, the facilitator then says: "I WENT to the JUNgle and I HEARD a funny NOISE."
4. Going round the circle, each student should make a jungle noise, one at a time, and keep making it while subsequent children add their own noises.
5. After each new noise is introduced, the facilitator says the phrase again.
 - a. Younger or more self-conscious children can work in pairs or groups.
 - b. Older children can contribute their own ideas to the theme of the activity: "I Went to the Farm and I Heard a Funny Noise."
6. Rhythm instruments can replace the thigh-slapping once the children master the concept.
7. The activity is more challenging than it may seem, because children can get confused or lose the tempo in the cacophony! However, once they get the hang of it, the resulting "songs" can sound very good!

PIGGIE PROFILE Classroom Science Information

Taken directly from: <http://www.kidsplayandcreate.com/are-pigs-smarter-than-dogs-amazing-pig-facts-for-kids/>

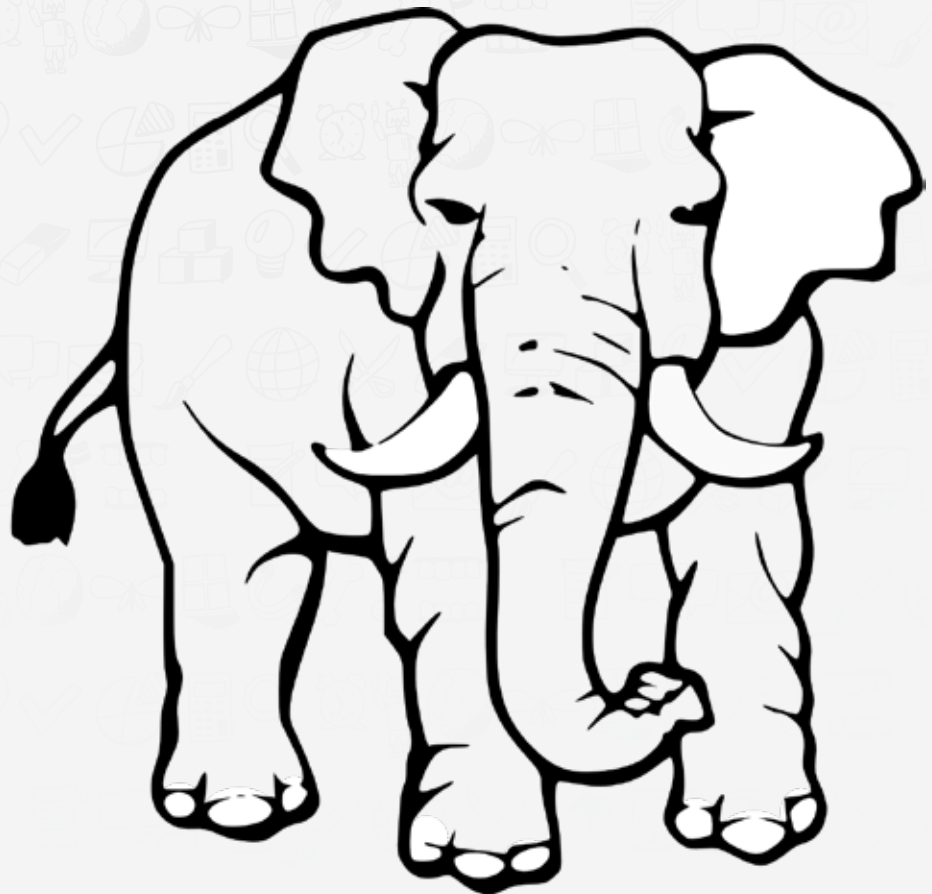
Pigs are very clean mammals. They do not like to use the bathroom where they sleep or eat.
A male pig is called a boar and a female is a sow.
A group of pigs is called a herd.
Pigs roll around in the mud to keep cool because they do not have sweat glands.
An adult pig on average weighs 300-700 pounds!
Pigs have 44 teeth.
A mother pig sings to her piglet while nursing.
Pigs have 15,000 taste buds! Humans have 9,000.
An adult pig can run up to 11 miles per hour.
Pigs are omnivores meaning they eat plants and meat. Most domesticated pigs living on farms eat corn.
Pigs drink up to 14 gallons of water every day.
There are about 2 billion pigs on earth!
Pigs live on every continent except for Antarctica.
Pigs are easily trained to walk on a leash, use a litter box, and do tricks.
In Denmark there are twice as many pigs as people!
It is physically impossible for a pig to look up into the sky. Their eyes are located on the side of their head.

ELEPHANTINE

Classroom Science Information

Taken directly from: <https://www.kidsplayandcreate.com/elephant-facts-for-kids/>

- There are two types of elephants: Asian Elephants and African Elephants.
- The scientific name for an African Elephant is *Loxodonta africana* and the scientific name for an Asian Elephant is *Elephas maximus*.
- Elephants are the largest land mammal in the world.
- Elephants live in Asia and Africa.
- African elephants are larger than Asian elephants and have larger ears.
- Elephants are around 200 pounds when they are born. That's one big baby!
- Adult elephants weigh between 5,000 and 14,000 pounds.
- A female elephant is called a cow.
- A male elephant is called a bull.
- A baby elephant is called a calf.
- Elephants have no natural animal predators.
- Humans are known to kill elephants for their ivory tusks.
- Scientists have discovered that elephants sing. They use an ultrasound rumble too low for humans to hear to keep the herd together and to find mates.
- Elephants travel in herds. A herd has 10 or more elephants. Herds are led by a female elephant.
- Elephants are herbivores. This means they do not eat meat. Elephants eat grass, leaves, shrubs, branches and fruit.
- Elephants spend 16 hours a day eating.
- Adult elephants eat 300-600 pounds of food every day.
- Elephants drink 40-50 gallons of water every day.
- Elephants sleep about 2 hours per day.
- Elephants like to swim.
- An elephant's trunk is their nose.
- The average lifespan for an elephant is 60-70 years.



“WE ARE IN A BOOK... BOX!”

Classroom Language Arts Activity

Adapted from: <http://www.franklincollege.edu/pwp/cmahaffey/LitUnit.pdf>

A book box contains key objects from a story. These objects can act as good visual aids for many different types of learners. Boxes should be colorful and should accompany the story.

MATERIALS

- One shoe box (or similar size box with a lid) for each child.
- Construction paper.
- Scissors.
- Crayons and markers.
- Glue sticks.
- Five or more key items from the story (students will collect or make replicas of these items to place in the box).

ACTIVITY

1. This activity should be done after reading Elephant and Piggie stories or attending the performance of ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE'S "WE ARE IN A PLAY".
2. Discuss the stories of Elephant and Piggie. After doing this, ask students to brainstorm a list of items they could use to represent events from these stories. For example: if you choose to explore the play: a party hat could be used to represent the Squirrelles' party, an envelope could represent a party invitation, a small toy could represent Piggie's toy, a kazoo could represent Piggie's trumpet, etc.
3. Share with students that they are going to be creating a book box about Elephant and Piggie. First, allow students time to decorate the outside of their box. The outside of the box must include the name of the story, and should be decorated to appropriately represent the story and the main characters of the story.
4. Next, allow students to choose five events from the story they want to incorporate in their book box, and select a suitable item to represent each event. Students can choose items that were brainstormed by the class, or select new events and items they wish to highlight.
5. Once the boxes are complete, place students into small groups to share their boxes with.

FRIENDS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

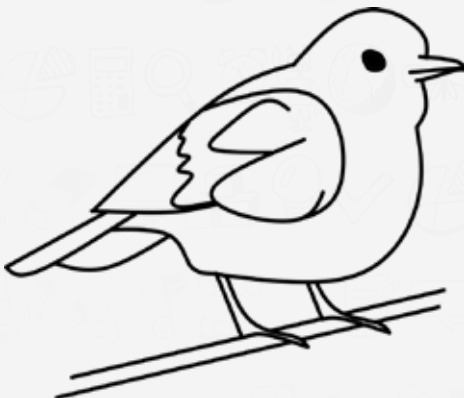
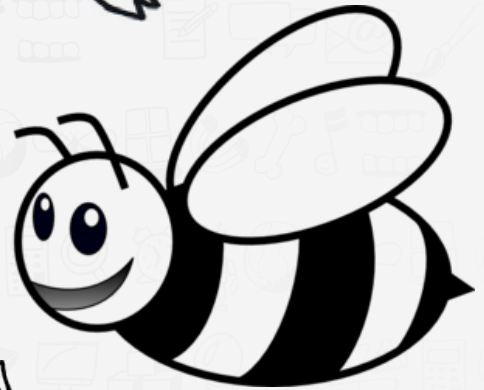
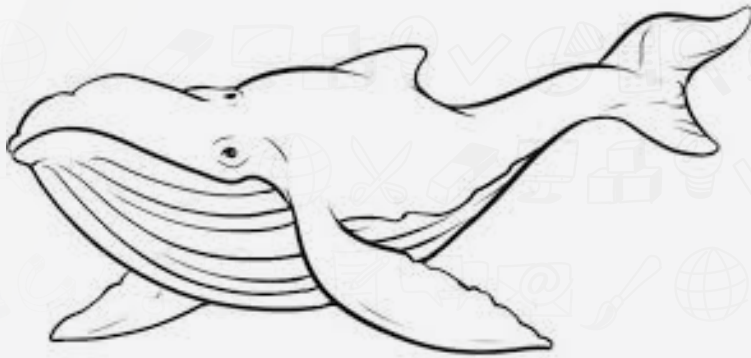
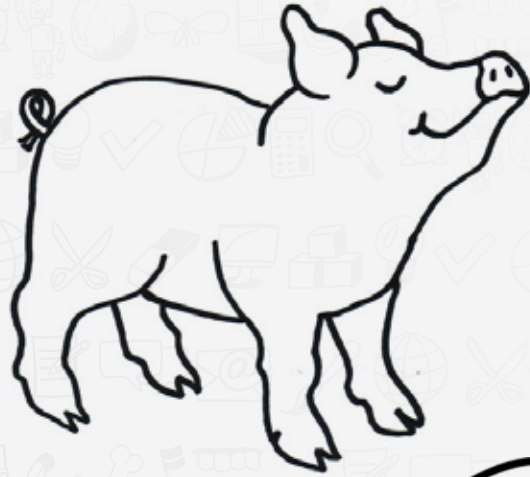
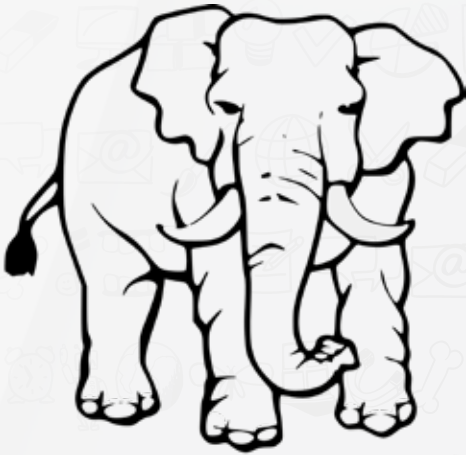
Classroom Math Activity

DIRECTIONS

Instruct each student to color and cut out the six animal pictures on the following page. Then, instruct them to glue the animal pictures in the correct box. This activity can also be done collectively based on the needs of the class.

ACTIVITY

There all sorts of animals in the world, who come in all sorts of different shapes and sizes! Can you put them in the right order from smallest to biggest? *(Continued on next page.)*



FRIENDS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

Classroom Math Activity (continued)

SMALLEST

SMALLER

SMALL

BIG

BIGGER

BIGGEST

ICE CREAM HEROES

Classroom Science Activity

Taken directly from: <https://www.gryphonhouse.com/activities/yummy-science-for-preschoolers-ice-cream-in-a-bag>

MATERIALS

- Milk.
- Vanilla.
- Ice cubes.
- Large (gallon or 4 L size) and small (sandwich size) re-sealable plastic bags.
- Sugar.
- Measuring cups and spoons.
- Salt.
- Spoons.
- Cups or bowls.

DIRECTIONS

1. Set out all of the ingredients and measuring supplies on a large table.
2. Give each student a small and large bag.
3. Tell the children to put $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (125 ml) milk, 1 tablespoon (15 ml) sugar, and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon (1ml) vanilla into the small bag. You may need to help younger students with the measurements.
4. Students then seal their bags and shake or squeeze gently to combine the ingredients.
5. Have students place their sealed bags into the larger bags and add ice cubes (about one dozen) and six tablespoons (90 ml) of salt to the area around it in the large bag.
6. After carefully sealing the large bag, students should shake it for five minutes or until ice cream hardens.
7. When the ice cream is ready to eat, pour it into bowls or cups and enjoy!

WHAT MAKES A GOOD FRIEND?

Social/Emotional Development Classroom Activity

Taken directly from: <http://www.goodcharacter.com/YCC/BeingFriends.html>

1. Write the following quote on the board: "To have good friends, you must be a good friend."
2. Ask students to explain this statement and tell why they either agree or disagree with it.
3. Ask them to think of different ways good friends treat each other. List their answers on the board and discuss each one.
4. Provide students with magazines and periodicals they can cut out pictures from. Have students cut out examples of friendship behaviors based on the list created by the class.
5. Provide a large poster board for the students to use to create a classroom friendship collage. Place the poster board at the front of the class and have students paste their pictures on the board until the entire board is covered with these friendship examples. They may also contribute slogans or mottos about friendship to the board.
6. Once the board (or two boards if your class easily filled the first poster up!) is filled with the friendship pictures, display the poster in the classroom as a constant reminder of what being a good friend looks like!

SHARING IS CARING

Classroom Social/Emotional Development Activity

Taken directly from: <http://www.instructorweb.com/lesson/sharing.asp>

ACTIVITY

1. Have the class prepare for a show and tell day. Instead of just asking the children to bring in any item, explain to them that this item should be one of their special items.
2. The day before show and tell have them draw the item they wish to bring in and write a few sentences about what the item means to them. Have them discuss it with the class and inform them the next day they can celebrate by all having their special possession with them.
3. The next day, before beginning with the show and tell, discuss what sharing is with students, why it is important, and how we can be good friends to one another by sharing. Use the following text to help springboard this conversation about sharing:

"When you were little you probably did not like to share your toys. You might not have even understood what sharing meant. As a toddler you knew that your toys were yours and you didn't want anyone else to play with them. Why should you? They were yours, after all. However, as you get old you learn more about kindness and being good to the people around you. This is what sharing is all about. Sharing is when you have something that someone else needs or wants and you offer to let them use your items.

Sharing is something that you do to make yourself feel good as well as the person needing your help. It shows the people around you that you are a good person and that you are mature and understanding of the needs of others.

Sometimes sharing does not mean letting someone borrow something to use alone. Instead of borrowing something you might share by taking turns. When you take turns you and a friend get to use the same toy or instrument for a certain amount of time and pass it back and forth.

If you are the person that needs to borrow something from a friend you should be considerate when asking to borrow whatever you need. You should never just grab something from your friend or take something from someone without asking for it first. If the person says "no", you should thank them anyway because at least they considered letting you borrow their property. Chances are if you are responsible and take care of things the person you asked will let you borrow their things. However, if you are reckless with your own things your friend may not want to let you use their things because they may think you will break them.

Everyone has one or two things that they want to keep all to themselves. This is fine and perfectly normal. You should not feel bad that you do not want to share your special items. Just explain to the person why they cannot borrow your special item. It is not expected that you share everything only the things that are not overly special to you or personal in nature."

4. Before beginning the show and tell, inform students that we will take turns coming up to the front of the class and presenting our special items. After everyone has gone, students can decide if they feel comfortable allowing the rest of their classmates to take a closer look at their item. Place the items students do want to share on a table in the front of the class and allow small groups to come up to look at these objects in more detail. After a few minutes, have the small group sit down and another group come up to the table of items.
5. Praise students for their ability to take turns and their respectful actions towards one another's special items.

WHO SAID IT?

1. "I hope nothing goes terribly, horribly, best- friendship-endingly wrong in the next hour!"
2. "I don't need to know what I'll do today as long as I know that I won't know what I am doing with you!"
3. "Uh oh. There is a predicament."
4. "Who will I skip and play ping pong in a silly hat with!?"
5. "There's something inside the envelope!? Well now you've got my attention."
6. "You bet your sweet bippy!"
7. "Alas, Pistachio. I knew him well...just not well enough."
8. "It's a living."
9. "You are an out of control, rampant toy breaker!"
10. "All that we needed to know is that we are true friends."

POST-SHOW QUESTIONS

1. How are Elephant and Piggie different from each other? How are they alike? What makes you different from some of your friends? What do you have in common with your friends?
2. Elephant claims to be an expert at parties. Being an expert at something means you are the best at doing that specific thing. What is an activity that you are really good at doing?
3. In the play, Elephant and Piggie get into an argument with each other when Piggie thinks that Elephant broke her new toy. What does Piggie do to make Elephant feel better? How do you make your friends happy when they are upset?

WHO SAID IT? (ANSWERS)

1. "I hope nothing goes terribly, horribly, best- friendship-endingly wrong in the next hour!" GERALD
2. "I don't need to know what I'll do today as long as I know that I won't know what I am doing with you! PIGGIE
3. "Uh oh. There is a predicament." PIGGIE
4. "Who will I skip and play ping pong in a silly hat with!? GERALD
5. "There's something inside the envelope!? Well now you've got my attention." GERALD
6. "You bet your sweet bippy!" PENGUIN
7. "Alas, Pistachio. I knew him well...just not well enough." GERALD
8. "It's a living." DOG
9. "You are an out of control, rampant toy breaker!" PIGGIE
10. "All that we needed to know is that we are true friends." PIGGIE