

# Elephants Are Big!

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The children will:

1. Learn about elephants in zoos and in the wild.
2. Improve motor skills.
3. Develop color concepts including the color gray and mixing colors.
4. Learn about the big size of elephants.

## Materials

various colors of paint, including black, white, brown, red, green, and blue  
 paintbrushes  
 aprons  
 easels  
 construction or other painting paper, some with elephant pictures and some plain so the children can make their own

## Children's Books

*Elephants* by Melissa Stewart  
*Elephants: A Book for Children* by Steve Bloom and David Henry Wilson  
*Just for Elephants* by Carol Buckley  
*"Stand Back," Said the Elephant, "I'm Going to Sneeze!"* by Patricia Thomas

## VOCABULARY

big	elephant	nature	wild
color	gray	trunk	zoo
ears	mud	tusk	

## PREPARATION

- Set out enough of the above materials for each child.

## WHAT TO DO

1. Ask the children if they have seen an elephant. Was it in a zoo?
2. Encourage the children to talk about how big elephants are. Show the children images of elephants to help the discussion. What color are they? Do they have tusks? Do the children know anyone who has been to Africa or Asia and seen elephants in the wild? Are all elephants gray? If an elephant rolls in the mud, is it a different color? Why would an elephant roll in the mud? Encourage all the children to participate.
3. Show the children the materials and encourage each of them to paint an elephant. They can mix colors, such as black and white, to make gray. They can also paint in grass and the sky and use their imaginations.

## TEACHER-TO-TEACHER TIP

- Have any of the teachers at the school, or parents or caretakers, observed elephants in the wild in Africa or Asia? If so, ask them to talk to the children about the experience.

## ASSESSMENT

Consider the following:

- Can the child tell you where elephants live?
- Can the child describe an elephant, using color and other descriptors?

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