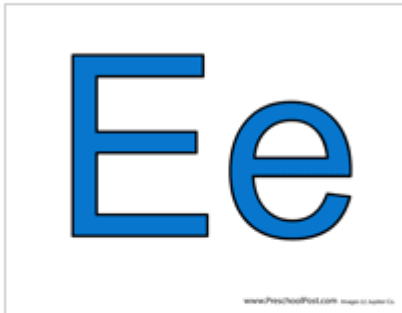
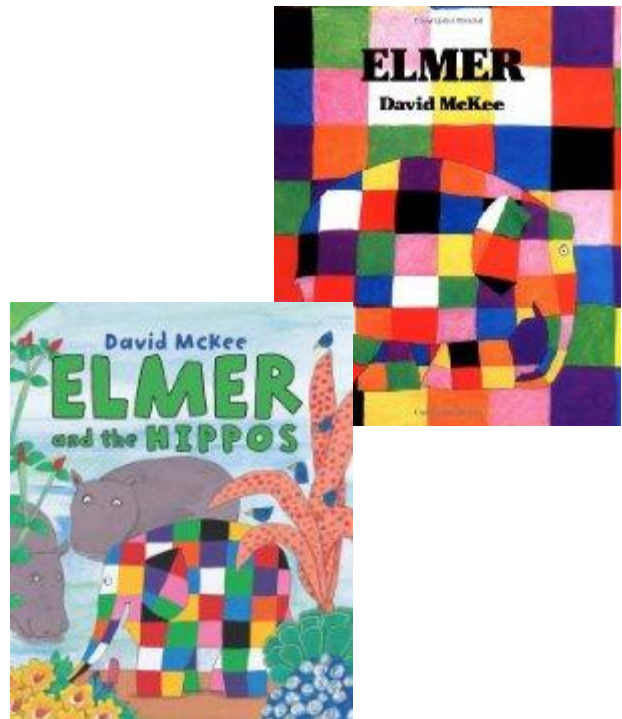


Preschool Post Lesson 6



www.PreschoolPost.com



Letter: E

Preschool Theme: Elephants

Bible Theme: Uniqueness, Equality in Christ. This lesson teaches children that God has made each and every one of us different and unique. We are all special and those differences are what make us even more valuable.

Morning Circle:

Introduce the [letter "E"](#) to the children. Show the children the letter "E." Explain that there are several ways to pronounce the letter "E." Show a picture of an ear. Say the word "ear" with the children. Show a [photo of an eagle](#). Say the word "eagle" with the children. Explain that this is just one sound the letter "E" can make. Now show the children a [photo of an egg](#). Say "egg." Ask the children if they heard the difference. Now show a [picture of elbow](#). Say "elbow." Ask the children if "elbow" sounds more like "egg" or "ear." Explain that the same letter sometimes has different sounds. You may like to check out the website "[photographic dictionary](#)" for some excellent pictures and words you can use to teach your young children basic sounds and letters.

Show the children a [photo of an elephant](#). Explain that "elephant" begins with "e." Ask the children if they can tell you where elephants live. How big are they? What color? What are their long "noses" called? Are they loud? Tell the children that lots of elephants live in Africa, on a broad area of grassland called a "savanna." Take some time to show some interesting photographs of [elephants in their habitats](#). You may want to explain that some elephants live in different areas of the world, including Asian countries and jungles.

Read: [Elmer](#), by David McKee. Take some time to discuss Elmer's situation. What made Elmer unique? What makes each of us unique? How did Elmer's special talents (his fun colors and his jokes) help his friends? How do our special talents help our communities?

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Music & Movement: Play the video or the song "[The Elephant Song](#)" by Eric Herman. This funny song will delight the children, and goes along with the prankster/joke theme of the "Elmer" book. Play the song again and pause after each animal is mentioned. Let the

children act like that animal, then hit "play" again until the next animal. Continue like this until the song is finished.

Snack: Peanuts are an obvious choice if you have no allergic individuals in your classroom. However, boxes of animal crackers are probably a safer idea. See how many of the animals the children can identify!

Centers:

1. Color names practice. Make a large grid on a piece of white posterboard. The idea is to make a grid of colors that resembles Elmer's patchwork skin in the circle-time story Elmer, by David McKee. Color in each square with a different color, then write the color name for that square with a black marker. Include the basic colors that are shown on Elmer's hide: red, green, blue, yellow, pink, orange, purple, black, and white. Next, prepare various bowls of colored objects. (Make sure the objects correspond to the colors on your posterboard.) You might include a bowl of buttons, a bowl of paperclips, a bowl of hair barrettes, and any other sets of small objects that match the poster. Help the children place the colored objects onto the matching squares on the grid. Reinforce the color names with the objects. For example you might ask a child, "what color button is that in your hand?" The child might say, "red." Then have the child choose any red square on the grid and say with the child, "red," as they place their object and look at the color word "red" on the grid.

2. Savanna habitat. Set up an area for imaginary play with toy savanna animals. Include lions, zebras, giraffes, elephants (of course,) and any other African savanna animals you can find. Include some plastic trees and some blue paper cutouts for "waterholes." You could even utilize a sand table for this setup. Play some African animal sound recordings in the background while the children play.

3. Listening Center: Make a recording of yourself reading age-appropriate jokes. Make the recording interesting and be mindful of the timing of your jokes. Set up a cd player or playback device of your choosing at a table. Invite small groups of children to have fun listening and laughing at your preschool jokes. (A few websites with age-appropriate jokes for preschoolers include mothering.com, [activityvillage](http://activityvillage.com), and indianchild.com.)

Art Activity:

Patchwork elephants. Create an [elephant template](#). Copy and cut out enough elephants for each child to have one. Gather many colors of construction or tissue paper. Cut these into small squares. Provide each child with plenty of these colored squares. Let the children paste their squares onto their elephants to simulate Elmer's patchwork body.



Bible Storytime:

Read: [Elmer and the Hippos](#) by David McKee. With charming patchwork elephant Elmer as our hero again, the children will learn about prejudices, sharing, and working cooperatively to solve mutual problems. After reading the story, take a moment to talk with the children about what "prejudice" means. (Remember that "prejudice" refers to more than just ethnicity or race. We can have prejudices against people who wear glasses, overweight or overly-thin people, people with unusual hair, or simply anyone who is different.) How were the elephants and the hippos different from one another? How were they the same? How are people the same? Different? Explain that God made us all: creatures, people,

plants. He made us to be unique. He also made us with similarities. How can we all work together to help each other despite our differences? How can we enjoy and learn from others who are different from us?

Bible Verse Bracelets: "Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment." [John 7:24](#)

Help the children understand what is meant by "judging," (i.e., forming opinions, making decisions about people or things.) Pray with the children to ask God for help in making right judgments, and in doing the right thing.

Another verse that could be used separately, or in addition to, the above verse is Acts 10:34-36

Song: "[Jesus Loves the Little Children](#)" (Cedarment Kids "Sunday School Songs" CD.)

Additional Activity: If you are within reasonable distance from a zoo, consider taking a field trip. Alternatively, create a library corner filled with books and photos of jungle and savanna animals. Consider watching a film about African animals or elephants. Be sure to discuss the characteristics of the animals you observe, such as their similarities and their differences.

Optional Resources:

[Handwriting Worksheet E is for Elephant](#)

[Bible Handwriting Worksheet E is for Elijah](#)

[Elephant Coloring Pages](#)



[Elephant Color Sorting File Folder Game](#)

Helpful Links:

[Elmer Printables on Sparkle Box](#)

Notes:
