



## Transitions Story: *Elmer* by David McKee



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFrD18XlmlM>

Transitions Principle: Expectations

Elmer stands out from the crowd because he looks different from other elephants. Elmer finds it hard to be different to everyone else and must come to terms with how he looks and behaves. Along with all the rest of the elephants, Elmer learns to value and celebrate his unique characteristics. This story celebrates diversity and helps children to understand why everyone is unique and special.

### Things to do and explore

- Encourage children to create their own elephant, talk about colour, shape, pattern etc.
- Go for a colour walk and see how many different colours you can see.
- Encourage the children to share a joke, just like Elmer.
- Encourage children to share what makes them special or what they like about a friend.
- Use a non-fiction book to find out more about elephants.
- Create a display about elephants for the children to interact with and discuss.



### Useful Words

ears, trunk, legs, eyes  
tail, back, mouth, tusks,  
old, young, tall, small, herd,  
jungle, patchwork, stripy,  
spotty, fast, slow

### Questions you might ask:

- Can you name some of Elmer's colours?
- How do you think Elmer felt being different to all the other elephants?
- What other animals did Elmer meet on his jungle walk?
- Why did the other animals not recognise Elmer?
- What happened to Elmer when the rain came?

### Other Ideas

Encourage children to move like jungle animals.



### Other Resources

[Elephants 101 | Nat Geo Wild](#)

[Elmer Again 📖👤 Kids Books Read Aloud - YouTube](#)

## Potential Learning: Es & Os/Midlothian Pathways

### Literacy:

- I can answer questions relating to a story or text. (pathway)
- I can use a variety of sources to find out information about new things. (pathway)
- I enjoy exploring events and characters in stories and other texts, sharing my thoughts in different ways. LIT 0-19a

### Numeracy/Maths

- I have spotted and explored patterns in my own and the wider environment and can copy and continue these and create my own patterns. MTH 0-13a

### Health & Wellbeing:

- I recognise that everyone has a unique blend of abilities and needs. I contribute to making my school community one which values individuals equally and as a welcoming place for all HWB0-10A
- I am aware of how friendships are forming and that likes, and dislikes special qualities and needs can influence relationships HWB-44A
- I am learning about my feelings towards myself, and others. (pathway)