



Human Elephant
Learning Programs
Advancing Elephant Welfare

WORLD ELEPHANT DAY 2022





EARTH'S GENTLE GIANTS

Image source: Pixabay

FOREWORD



Image source: Pixabay

The Australian National Commission for UNESCO is pleased to support this initiative by the Human Elephant Learning Program Foundation (H-ELP) to celebrate World Elephant Day.

Every 12 August the world celebrates Elephant Day. The aim is to raise awareness and to fight for the future of this precious animal. Elephants, are vulnerable to threats like habitat loss, poaching and mistreatment in captivity.

H-ELP is a non-profit organisation based in Australia that since 2010 has been working for the protection of these precious giants by providing specialised training and education to elephant handlers and trainers across South-East Asia.

H-ELP developed this booklet for children under 5 years of age to ignite their love for elephants and the planet. It has been reviewed by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) with a view to strengthening alignment with the Early Years Learning Framework For Australia.

To mark World Elephant Day in 2022, H-ELP is launching a colouring-in competition. Early childhood education and care settings and children across Australia can participate in the competition and submit their entries as outlined in this booklet.

We wish H-ELP every success in the dissemination of the booklet and awareness campaign.

Happy World Elephant Day!

Clair McNamara
Chair, Australian National Commission for UNESCO

INTRODUCTION



Image source: Pixabay

Elephants are Earth's largest land animals. Unfortunately due to poaching and human-elephant conflict their populations have declined a lot over the last century. While there were perhaps 10 million African elephant elephants in 1930, today there are only 415,000 left. The Asian elephant has an even smaller population and may be below 40,000. Recent droughts in South-East Asia, along with COVID-19, have been detrimental as elephants can eat around 250kg of food a day.

The purpose of this booklet is to bring about greater awareness, knowledge and love for elephants. It will hopefully mark the beginning of a lifetime journey where children will want to learn more about these magnificent animals, including their challenges as critically endangered species.

In celebration of World Elephant Day, we have designed some classroom activities using The Early Years Learning Framework For Australia, for early learning settings. This framework, with its learning outcomes, is based on children being connected to family, community, culture and place. In Australia, approved early childhood education and care services must base their educational program on an approved learning framework.

The five learning outcomes, which we have strived to address in our suggested activities, are:

1. Children have a strong sense of identity.
2. Children have a strong sense of wellbeing.
3. Children are confident and involved learners.
4. Children are effective communicators.
5. Children are connected with and contribute to their world.

While there exists a few classroom or early childhood service based learning materials on elephants, many are very static in just imparting simple facts about these gentle giants. Elephants have fascinating and complex social dynamics and behaviours though, which can teach us more about ourselves and the world in which we live.

The H-ELP Foundation is honoured with the support of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO and a generous donation from Swarovski, to celebrate World Elephant Day. We hope this booklet helps bring elephants front-and-centre into your learning on World Elephant Day, Friday 12 August 2022!

Thank you,

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FAMILY

01 BACKGROUND

Elephants live in family groups between around 2 and 25 members. The family unit will consist of the female leader and her children, sometimes with aunts, sisters and grandmothers. So there can be up to three generations living together.

02 LEARNING OUTCOME

Children are connected with and contribute to their world, as they become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people and their families.

03 ACTIVITIES

- Discuss with your children how many generations and people live in their household and how they might differ from other children.
- Encourage your children to draw a family tree showing their family members.



Image source: H-ELP Foundation

IDENTITY

01 BACKGROUND

Elephant family units are matriarchal, meaning they are led by an older female elephant.

02 LEARNING OUTCOME

Children develop a strong sense of identity, as well as recognise and respect females as strong leaders.

03 ACTIVITY

Discuss with your children who they think are the strong female members of their family.



Image source: H-ELP Foundation

CONNECTION

01 BACKGROUND

There are two main types of elephants – the African and Asian elephant.

African elephants roam many countries across the African continent and are known to be bigger in size with larger ears. The males and females also have tusks. This is compared to Asian elephants that are smaller in size, have smaller and rounded ears, and only the males have tusks.

In central Africa, forest elephants prefer to break down tree saplings, stripping them of their foliage. Asian elephants on the other hand prefer palms, grasses and bamboo. These differences have developed as a result of the prevailing ecology and availability of flora across these continents.

02 LEARNING OUTCOME

Children become involved leaders by learning about their environment and reflectively thinking how that can affect their everyday lives, through diet.

03 ACTIVITY

Many families have different diets, some arising from their cultural origins. Discuss with your children the different food they might have for lunch and dinner, and what foods other countries might have and why.



Image source: H-ELP Foundation

COMMUNICATION

01 BACKGROUND

Elephants have many different ways of communicating. They can stamp their feet loudly when in danger causing vibrations in the ground, which other herds many miles away will feel through their feet. They can also use their trunk to trumpet a loud warning. Elephants may flap their ears when excited and happy. The language of elephants is complex and varied.

02 LEARNING OUTCOME

Children become effective communicators by learning about different languages spoken and understanding different ways of communicating.

03 ACTIVITIES

- Ask your children what languages they speak at home and if they have friends who speak other languages.
- Discuss what other ways you could communicate if you were not able to speak.



Image source: H-ELP Foundation

TRUST CONFIDENCE

01 BACKGROUND

A baby elephant will use its trunk to hold the tail of their mother when they are walking distances. They trust their mother to help guide, lead and look out for them.

Members of the herd all look out for each other too. Family members will babysit and look after their younger relatives, and surround the younger members to protect them if they detect a threat.

02 LEARNING OUTCOME

Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing by developing trust and confidence.

03 ACTIVITY

Set up two series of cones in a course, going from one side of the room to the other. Then divide your children into two groups, with a leader for each. Each team member should place one hand on the shoulder of the teammate in front of them. Leaders must take their teams from one side of the room to the other, navigating weaving between the cones. Each leader will need to pay close attention to the team to make sure they navigate the cones and don't become disconnected from each other. You might like to rotate leaders within the team as well so other children get the experience of leading.



Image source: H-ELP Foundation

RAISING AWARENESS

01 BACKGROUND

Sadly the world population of elephants has declined alarmingly over the last century.

To help raise awareness on World Elephant Day, we are challenging everyone to "Hug A Trunk For Elephants."

02 AWARENESS CHALLENGE

Of course we are not literally suggesting to hug an elephant's trunk, but instead to symbolically hug a tree trunk!

You are encouraged to upload photos on social media - provided you have permission of the subjects - of you or your colleagues, your children and/or their parents on Facebook, Instagram, or Pinterest with the hashtag #hugatrunkforelephants

Do add details of your child or early childhood education and care setting if you would like credit.



*Carmen Marton OLY
World Taekwondo Champion & Three-Time Olympian
H-ELP Goodwill Ambassador*

H-ELP will select one photo's subject(s) - individual(s) or early childhood education and care setting, in any country - to win a 20 minute Zoom session with a live elephant on screen, where the awardee can virtually meet an Asian elephant in Thailand and have their own Q&A.

We'll also re-post the winning photo and send you a World Elephant Day 2022 Star certificate.

QUIZ

To be facilitated by the educator in the most appropriate manner.



01 HOW CLOSE TO THE ANSWER CAN YOUR CHILDREN GUESS?

Q. How many species of elephants are there?

A. 3.

The Asian, the African forest and the African savannah (bush) elephant.

Q. In how many countries can you find elephants?

A. 50.

African elephants can be found in 37 countries, according to the World Wildlife Fund, including Botswana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, Angola, Namibia, Rwanda and Mozambique.

Asian elephants can be found in 13 countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

*Follow up: If you have a world map, challenge your children to find/point to these countries.

Q. Approximately how many kilograms of food can an elephant eat in a day?

A. 250kg

*Follow up: Weigh one child's lunch and ask your children how many times of that could an elephant eat in a day.

Q. How many litres of water can an elephant drink in a day?

A. Around 200-250 litres.

*Follow up: Discuss with your children how much water they drink in a day and how that relates in quantity to how much an elephant drinks.

02 DID YOU KNOW?

The largest animal on Earth is the blue whale, which can weigh up to 180,000 kg.

How many elephants would be equivalent in weight in a blue whale? (Around 26, as a large African male elephant can weigh up to 6,800 kg.)

The largest elephant species is the African bush elephant. It can be almost 4 metres tall to its shoulders.

Measuring one child's height, how many of him/her/them would it take to reach the height of an African bush elephant?

COLOURING-IN COMPETITION

01 THE CHALLENGE

On the following two pages we have provided two drawings of elephants to be decorated.

Entrants can use pencils, crayons or paint to create a work of art from any one of these. A child's individual creativity in selecting colours and patterns is encouraged.



Image source: Swarovski

02 TO ENTER

Any child up to the age of 6 may have their entry submitted. It is open to children in Australia.

To be eligible, please upload your child's entry to Instagram or Facebook, with the competition hashtag

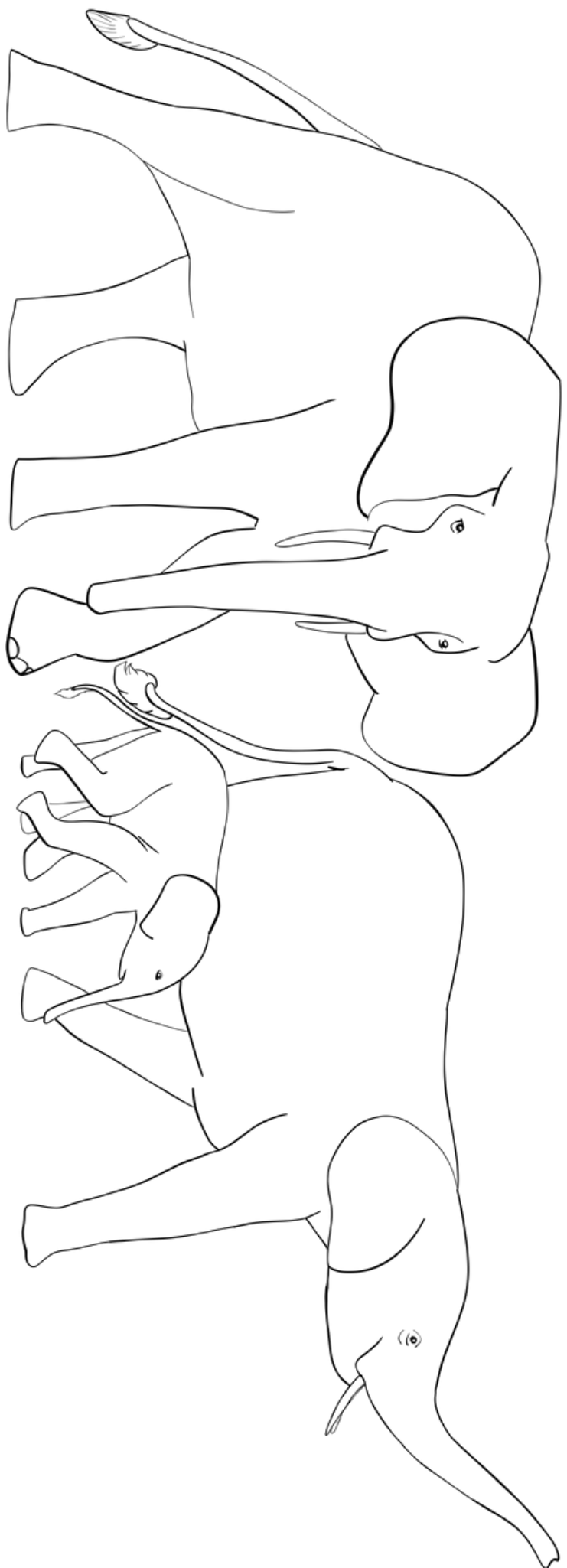
#helpelephants2022competition

In the caption area, include their name, childhood education and care centre (name, city, state) or email address if appropriate, so we can get in touch.

03 THE PRIZE

H-ELP, with the support of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO, will announce the top 3 (first, second and third) entries in September and send certificates to these 3 winning entries. The winning entry will also be awarded a beautiful elephant crystal (see left), thanks to Swarovski. We would like to thank Swarovski for its generous donation with the "Elegance of Africa Elephant Head Ujamaa" piece as the prize for the competition. **Please note** the prize is not a toy and parental handling of it is a must.





EXPRESSION THROUGH DRAWING

For the chance to be included in next year's edition.

01 BACKGROUND

Next year, we will look to bring a story of elephant families to life with the drawings of children from across Asia. We invite submissions from early childhood education and care settings to contribute to this story, that will be included in the 2023 World Elephant Day booklet.

02 LEARNING OUTCOME

As children create unique expressions of their elephant, they communicate by sharing stories and symbols of their culture and use the creative arts such as drawing, painting, and storytelling to express ideas.

03 ACTIVITY

- Ask your children to draw a picture of an elephant on a white background and encourage them to colour or decorate their drawing.
- The picture can be any species of elephant, any age, and a child's individual creativity in selecting colours and patterns is encouraged.
- As they are drawing, invite them to tell you a story about why they chose this elephant, does it connect with them in any way? Why that colour? What is its name? Why does it look the way it does?
- Educators are asked to scan these, and submit them, with the child's name and early childhood education and care setting name, by emailing: worlddelephantday@h-elp.org



Human Elephant Learning Programs

Advancing Elephant Welfare

H-ELP Foundation, Australia

www.h-elp.org
[@help elephants](https://www.instagram.com/help elephants)

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