

ELMER DAY

Elmer Day 2019 is a very special celebration of Elmer's 30th birthday!

When: Saturday 25th May 2019

Feel free to choose another date that works for your Elmer party: celebrate in the week leading up to the big day, or the week after.

If you're holding your event in a bookshop or library:

- Promote your event with the poster template included in this pack.
- Shout about your event on social media using #Elmer30
- Help people to find your event by uploading the details to the online event map at: elmerday.co.uk/map

If you're using this pack in a school or nursery:

Visit elmerday.co.uk to download free teaching resources created by the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education:

- BRAND NEW resources for a whole school celebratory assembly and teaching notes for *Elmer's Walk*
- *Elmer and the Rainbow* teaching sequence for Early Years
- *Elmer and the Stranger* teaching sequence for KS1
- *Elmer and the Hippos* teaching sequence for KS2

You will also find useful resources in this pack from anti-bullying charity Kidscape.



IDEAS FOR YOUR ELMER DAY PARTY:

Dressing Up: Encourage everyone to come dressed in their brightest colours to stand out from the herd like Elmer! You could also try out some simple face paints, using sponges cut into squares for Elmer style patches.

Story Time: Choose an Elmer story to read aloud to the group. Try *Elmer's Walk*, the newest story by David McKee.

Play Time: Play the hide and seek game, which is included in this pack, or hide a variety of colourful balloons and ask the children to find as many colours as possible.

Get Creative: Colour in a birthday card for Elmer, or use some of the craft activities in this pack to make elephant ears, a whole herd of milk bottle elephants or the colourful parade garland.

Working Together: Make a giant Elmer display together. Draw out a large elephant shape onto a big piece of paper (using the colouring sheet as a guide) and get each child to decorate their own patch with paint, crayons or collage.

Party Food: Create a patchwork picnic with lots of colourful fruit and vegetables cut into cubes.

Elephant Parade: Gather the herd and prepare for an Elmer Day parade! Put on some music, wear your Elmer ears and parade around the room! Make sure you take some photos.

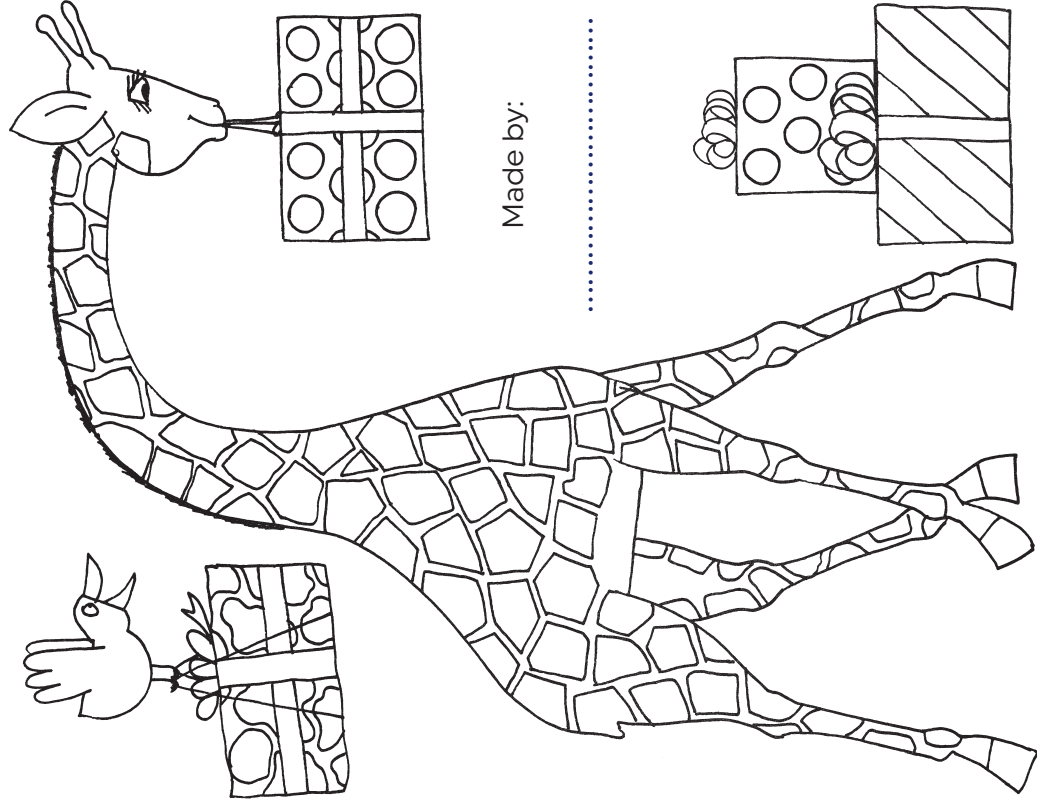
Next Steps: Celebrate the success of your event by sharing pictures on social media using #Elmer30.



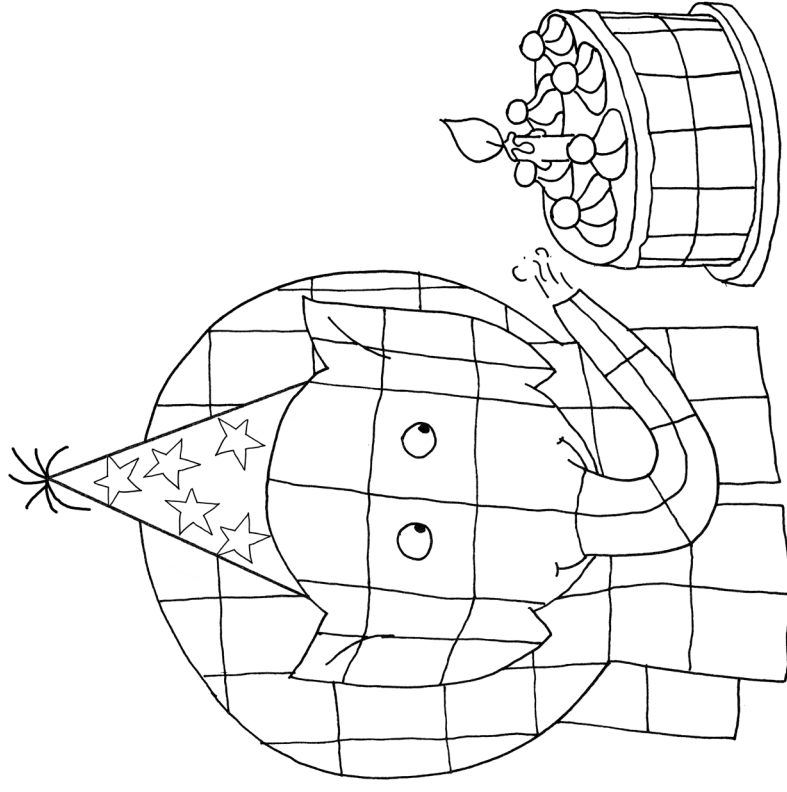
MAKE A BIRTHDAY CARD FOR ELMER

It's Elmer's birthday.

Can you colour in this birthday card for him?

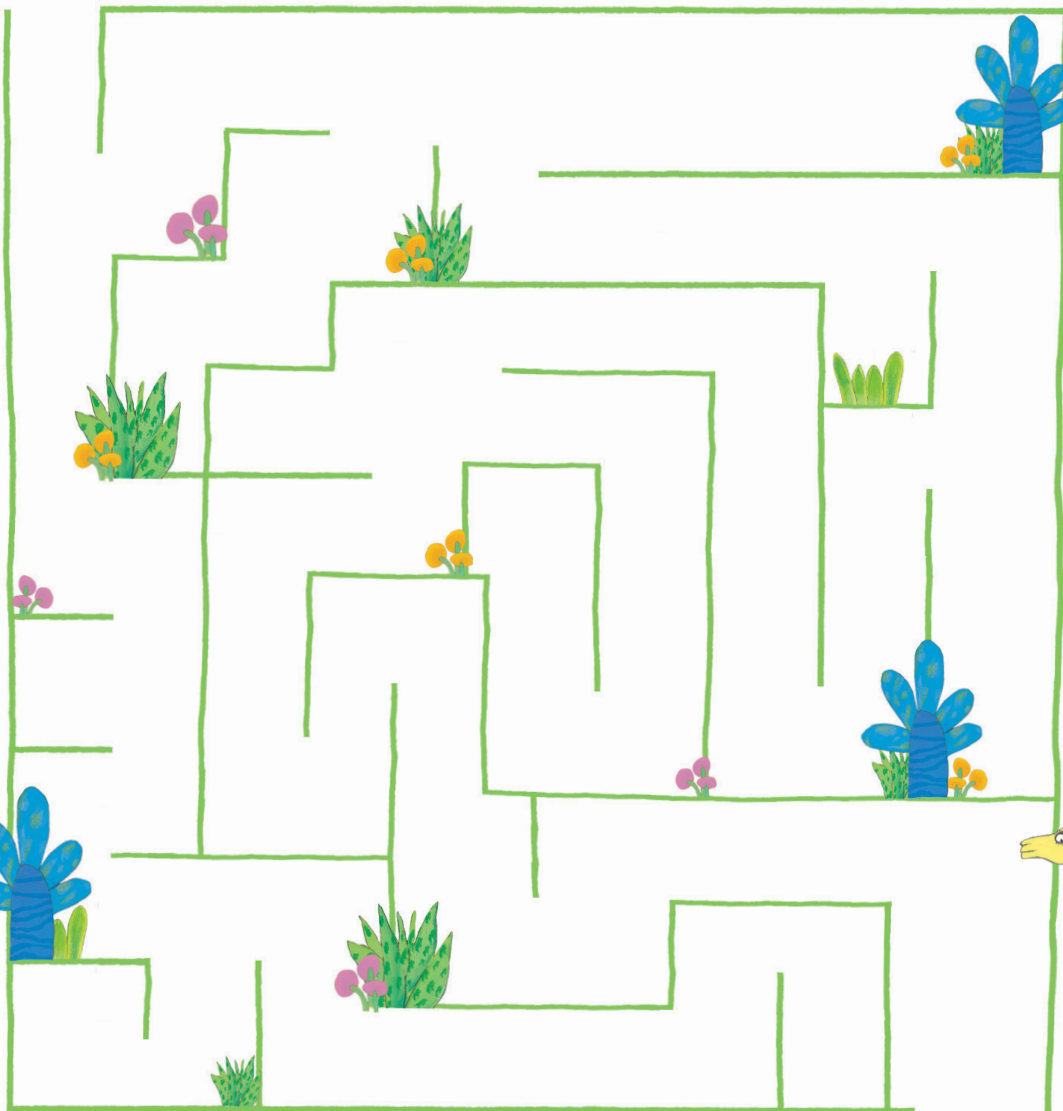
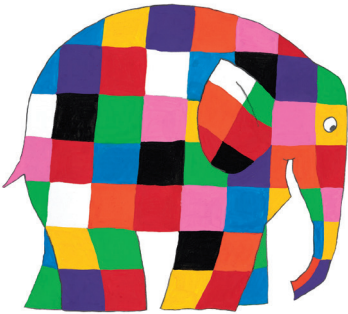


HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELMER!



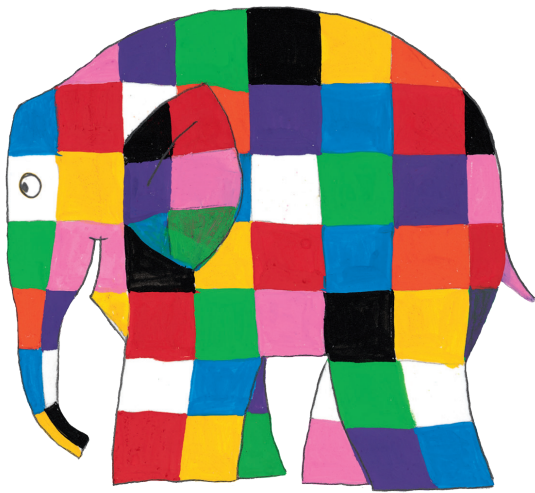
ELMER'S MAZE

It's Elmer's birthday and his friends are throwing him a party in the jungle.
Can you help him find his way?

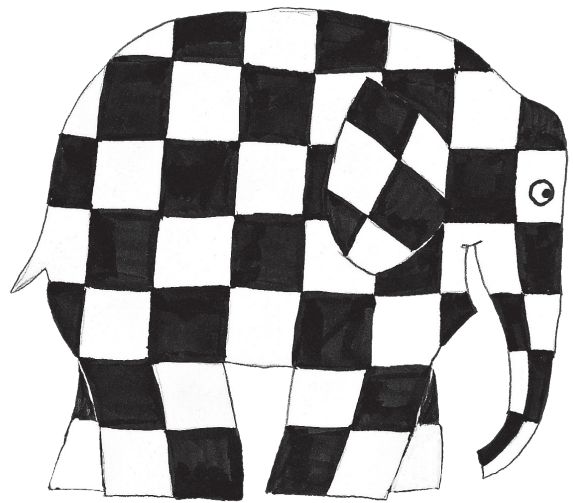


ELMER'S Hide and Seek Game

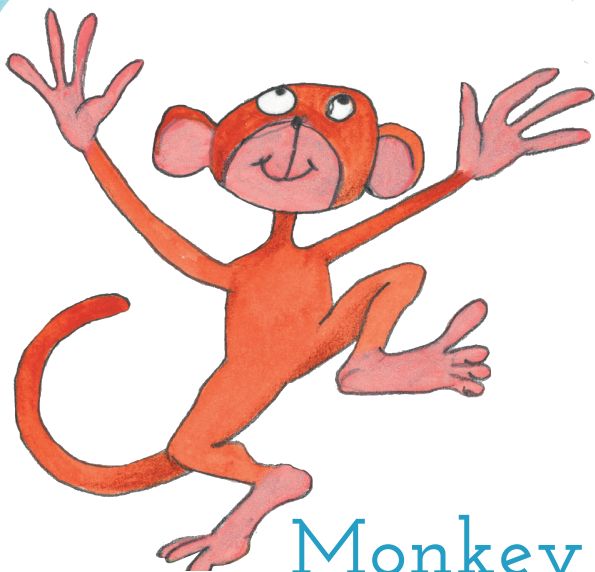
Cut out the characters and hide them around your space
(you may want to laminate or mount them on coloured card first).



Elmer



Wilbur



Monkey

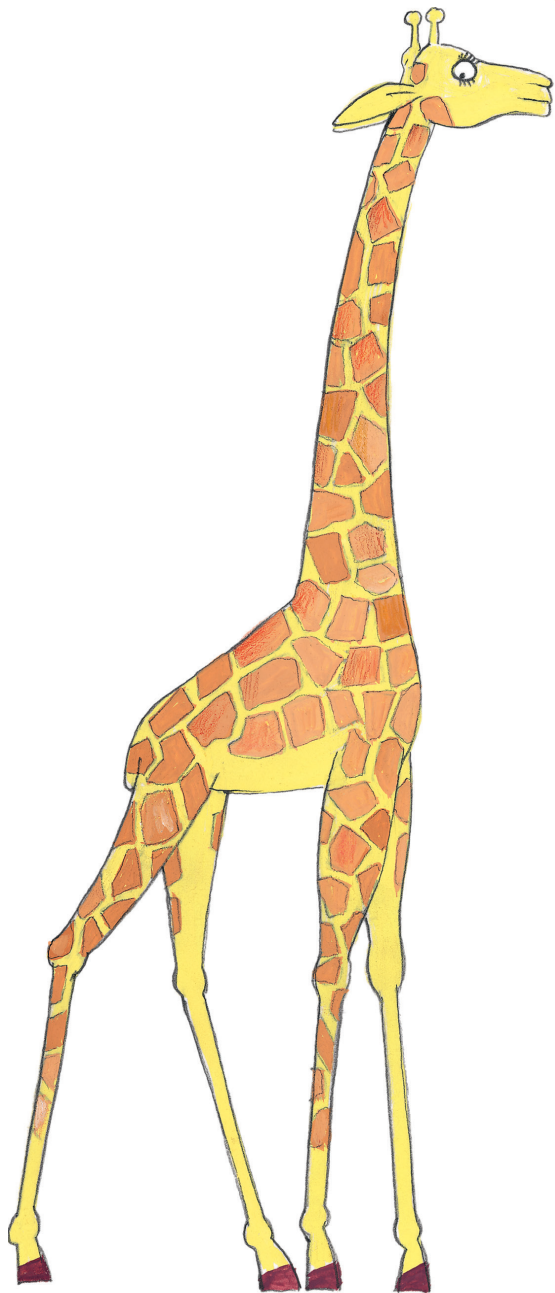


Tiger



Lion

Teddy



Giraffe

Can you find ELMER'S friends?



Elmer



Wilbur



Tiger



Lion



Teddy



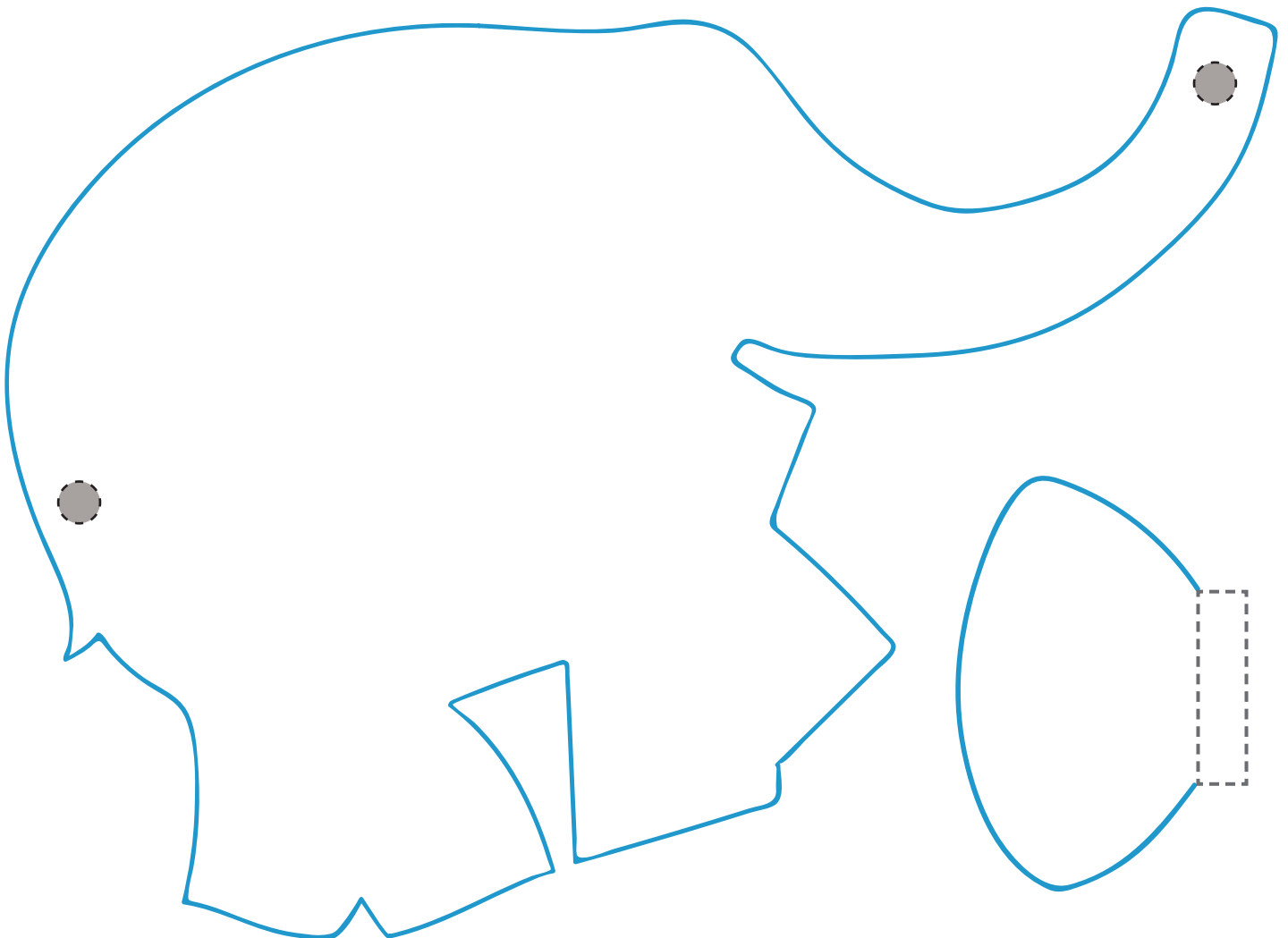
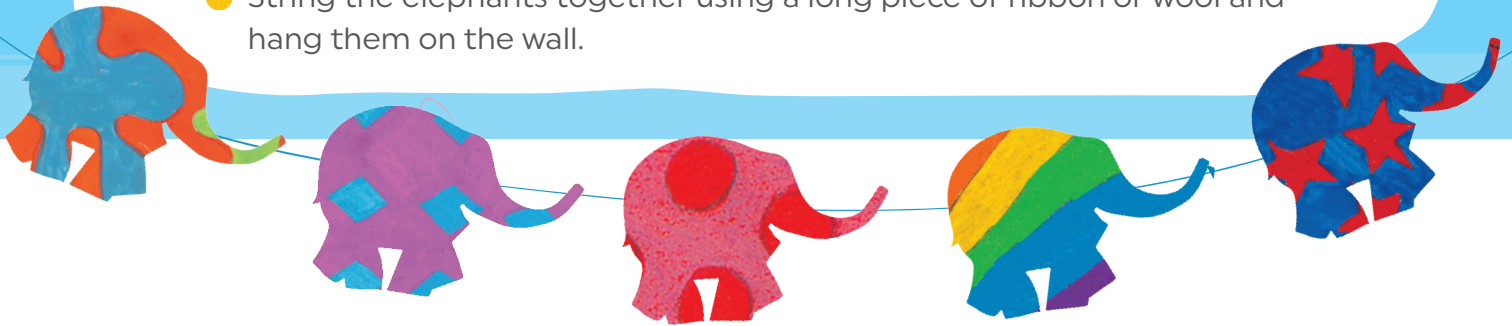
Monkey



Giraffe

Make an elephant parade garland

- Copy this activity sheet multiple times onto card and cut out the elephant and ear templates.
- Punch holes where indicated.
- Decorate the elephant and ear shapes using paint, colouring pencils, felt tips and crayons. Try making your designs as colourful as possible; you can find inspiration in the first Elmer story and *Elmer's Special Day*.
- Fold the ears along the tab and glue onto each elephant shape.
- String the elephants together using a long piece of ribbon or wool and hang them on the wall.

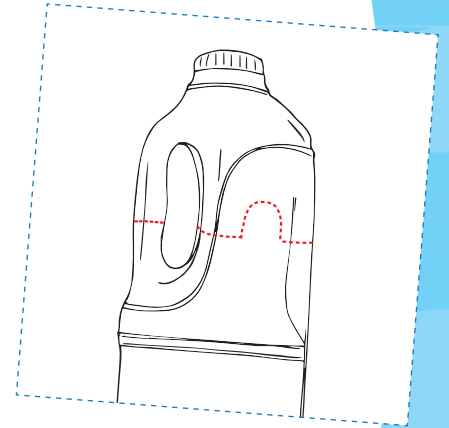


Make a milk bottle ELMER!

Create a whole herd of Elmers out of plastic milk bottles...

You will need:

- A plastic milk bottle (remove the lid, label and wash out the inside)
- Lots of colourful tissue paper cut into squares
- PVA Glue
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Card
- A grown-up
- Elmer ear template



Top Tip:
To use paint on your elephant, mix PVA glue with ready mix paint.

Instructions:

- Ask a grown-up to cut off the bottom of the bottle to create Elmer's legs and trunk, and cut out Elmer's ears using the card.
- Cover the surface of the bottle with PVA glue and then stick tissue paper squares all over the elephant in an Elmer patchwork style.
- Stick Elmer's ears to his head and cover with patchwork tissue paper squares.
- Once your elephant is complete, give it another coat of PVA glue to varnish.
- Finally, add some eyes (we've added googly eyes but you can make your own with paper and pens).
- Share a picture of your herd on social media using [#ElmerDay](#)

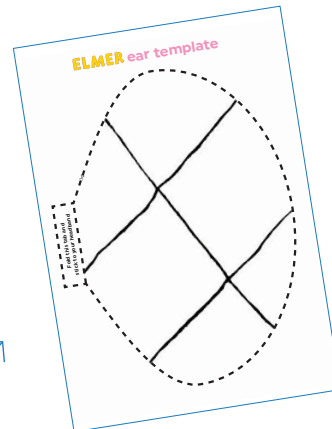


Make your own **ELMER** ears!

You can be just like Elmer with these colourful, patchwork ears!

You will need:

- White card
- A pencil
- Colouring pencils or felt tip pens
- Glue or sticky tape
- Scissors (We recommend a grown-up does the cutting out!)
- Elmer ear template



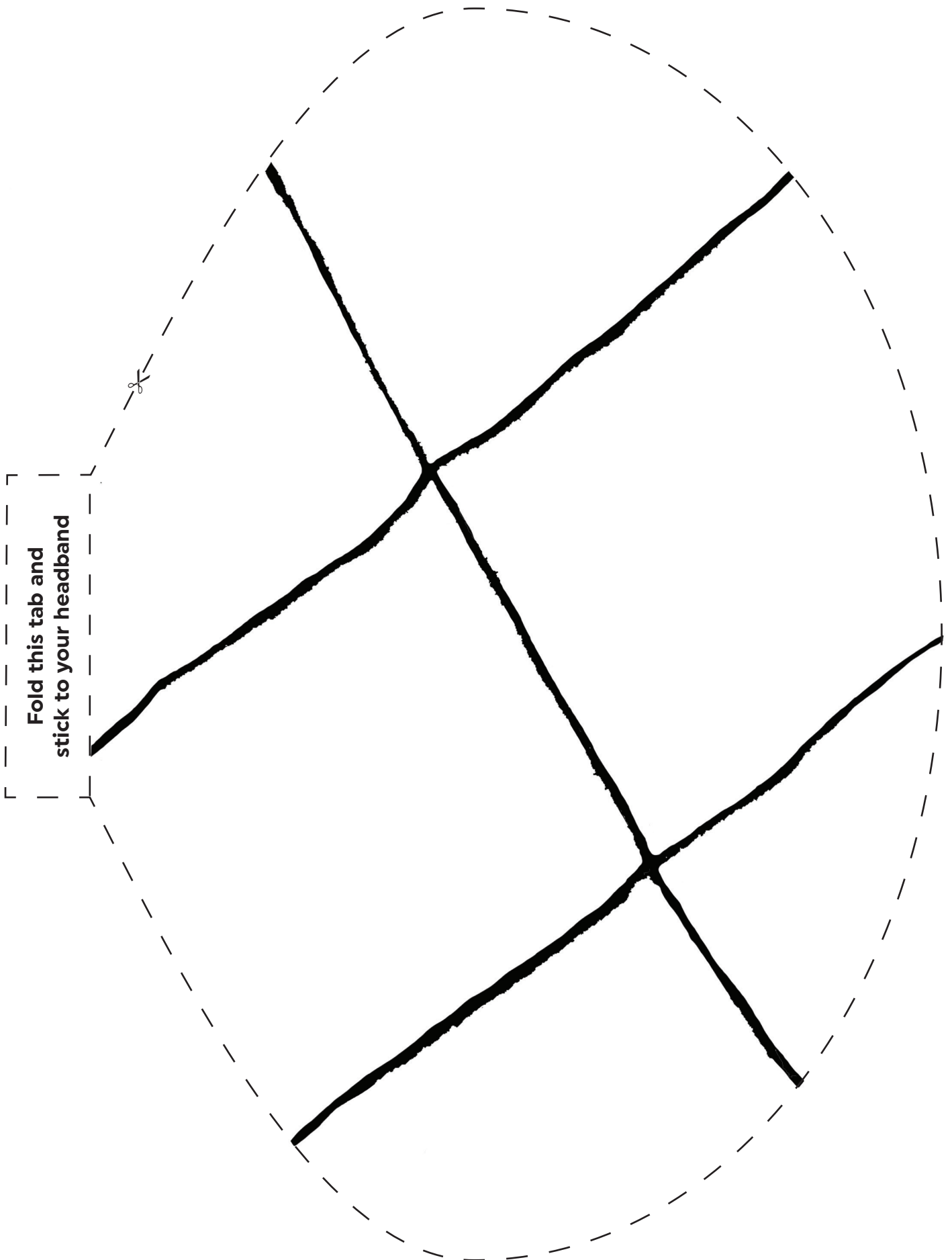
Instructions:

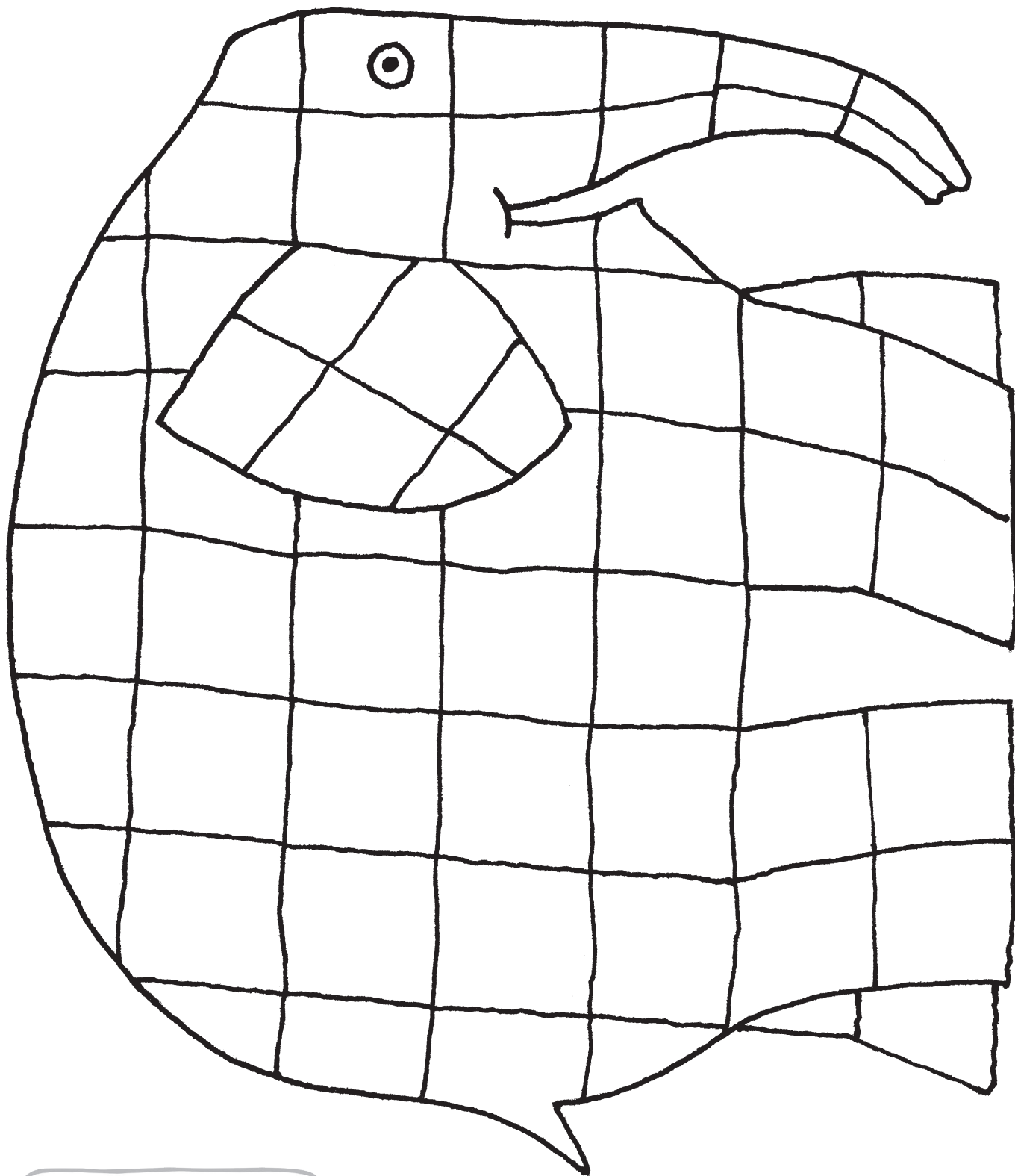
- Cut a strip of card to wrap around your head and sit like a crown. Stick the ends of your headband together.
- Cut out the ear template (enclosed in this pack) and draw around it twice on to card, then cut out the two ears.
- Draw patches onto the ears and colour them in using bright colours.
- Fold the tab on the ears and apply glue or sticky tape.
- Stick the ears to either side of the headband.
- Share pictures of your patchwork creation on Twitter and Facebook using [#ElmerDay](#)

Top Tip:
You could try using coloured tissue paper for the patches!



ELMER ear template





Name:

Age:

Promote Kindness and Friendship with **ELMER**

in partnership with  **KIDSCAPE**
Help With Bullying

Elmer shares messages of love, kindness and friendship with children. Here are ways you can use the Elmer stories to prevent bullying, and support happy and healthy relationships.

SPREAD LOVE AND HAPPINESS

Rainbow of happiness and love (*Elmer and the Rainbow*)

'Some things you can give and give and not lose any. Things like happiness or love or my colours;' Work together to make a patchwork rainbow display. Pin all the ways you can share happiness or love with others on the rainbow.

Elmer always says "Good morning" (*Elmer*)

Ask the children why it is important to say 'Good Morning'. What other things can you say that are 'good manners' and brighten up someone's day? Together you could design a poster of 10 things you like to say to one another in your class or group.

Make someone smile (*Elmer*)

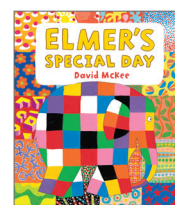
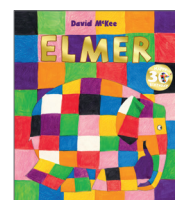
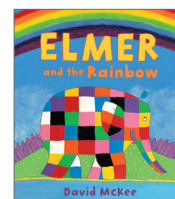
Elmer always makes someone smile. How can we make someone smile if they are sad? Ask the children to think of three ways they can make someone smile or laugh. Put them in pairs and ask them to practice making the other person laugh.

Laughing WITH not at someone (*Elmer*)

Elmer always laughs with, not at people. Explain to the children the difference between laughing with someone, or at someone (e.g. 'Ha, ha, you look like a silly giraffe' or 'Do you want to hear a funny joke?'). Ask the children if they have any jokes they would like to share. The children could invent their own elephant jokes, with the joke that raises the loudest laugh winning a prize.

Including everyone (*Elmer's Special Day*)

Elmer makes it possible for all the animals to join in his special day. How do you feel if you are left out of a game? Why is it important to include other children in your games?



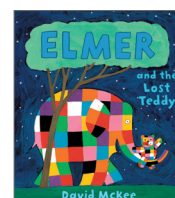
CELEBRATE DIFFERENCE

'All Different All Happy' (*Elmer*)

Create an elephant template - segmented like Elmer's patches. Encourage children to write or draw what makes them different or the same as other children, AND what makes them happy. Use this as an opportunity to talk about difference - why it is good for us all to be different and like different things.

Favourite teddies (*Elmer and the Lost Teddy*)

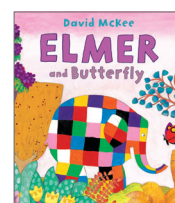
'All teddies are special, especially your own'. Ask the children to bring in, or draw their favourite teddy. The children can take it in turns to explain why it is their favourite teddy. Explain that all teddies are different, but all are loved.



HELPING OTHERS

You can help too (*Elmer and Butterfly*)

Elmer doesn't think that Butterfly could ever help him, but she does. Explain to the children that they might only be little but they can still help. How have they helped someone before? Explain there are ways they can make someone feel better and times when, like Butterfly in the story, they might need to get someone big to help (e.g. a teacher or group leader). You could design 'Here to help' stickers or badges that the children take it in turns to wear in the playground or in your group.



Helping people in our community and the world (*Elmer and the Hippos*)

Elmer helps the other elephants understand why they need to help the Hippos. Who might need our help where we live or go to school? Who might need our help in the world? If we needed help how would we want someone to make us feel? This could be an opportunity to work with the children to identify a local cause, national or international charity that you would like to support.

