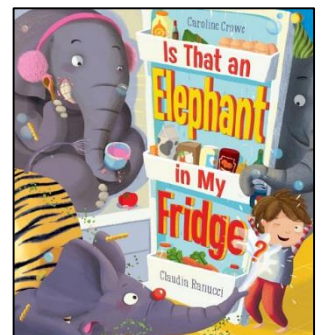




Is That an Elephant in My Fridge? Written by Caroline Crowe and illustrated by Claudia Ranucci

1 – Introducing the book

- Talk about how you feel if you haven't had a good night's sleep, and the importance of going to bed early, especially on a school night so that you can concentrate on learning and get the most out of your day.
- Ask children if they have ever had the experience of not being able to get to sleep at night. What can you do to help you drop off? Discuss strategies such as breathing deeply, squeezing and relaxing all your muscles in turn from head to toe, singing a song in your head or visualising a lovely place that you like to go such as a beach or a park. Explain that often people picture sheep jumping over a fence and count them, but this story is about what happens when instead of sheep, a little boy tries counting elephants.
- Invite children to imagine what it would be like if some elephants arrived in their house – what would the elephants like to play with? What would they like to do? Read the title of the book, and share some examples of elephant jokes, including of course the famous 'elephant in the fridge' joke.
- Once you've read the story, ask children to move round the room like elephants. You could listen to "Colonel Hathi's March" from Disney's Jungle Book. Invite them to change their movements to represent the different types of elephants mentioned in the story – a superhero elephant, a ballerina elephant, a marching elephant etc.



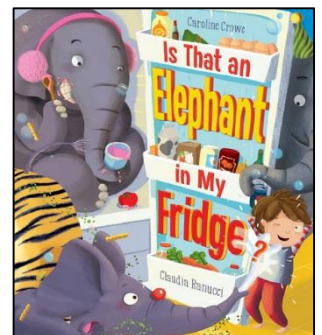


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2 – Elephants in the room

- Look at the repeating patterns of elephants on the inside pages. Invite children to create their own repeating patterns, either using potato printing, an elephant stencil or by drawing round an elephant template on coloured or wrapping paper and cutting out the shape. You could even make an elephant frieze to go around the classroom wall.
- Help children to make elephant finger puppets. Create a simple template of an elephant's face and front legs with a hole in the centre which the child's finger will push through (forming the elephant's trunk). Draw round the template on card, cut out and then encourage children to colour or collage their elephant in an outfit of their choice.
- Make elephants from empty plastic four-pint milk bottles. Cut through the bottle half-way down the handle which will form the elephant's trunk. Use pva glue diluted with water to make a basic paste and use small pieces of kitchen roll to papier-mâché over the whole thing. Once dry, paint with grey poster paint, glue on googly eyes and felt elephant ears.





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3 – Num-baaaa lines

- Use the concept of counting sheep to explore number sequences and counting. Give the children number lines with each sheep having a different number on its back. Leave some blank sheep, and ask children to write in the correct missing number.
- Make simple sheep masks for each child and decorate with cotton wool. Ask the children to stand with a partner, providing an opportunity for them to practise counting in twos. Encourage children to run around and then on a given signal, to get into groups of a given number. Move a child from one group to another to explore concepts of one more/one less, or put two groups together to demonstrate doubling and halving.

