

# EARLY YEARS IN FOCUS

<http://kentcollege.com/early-years>



ACTIVE PLAY - ACTIVE LEARNING  
OPEN MORNING  
SATURDAY 26TH MARCH

## A Splash of Colour

We have chosen a book for you to share with your child. This book incorporates our heading of **A Splash of Colour**.

The chosen book for you to share is:

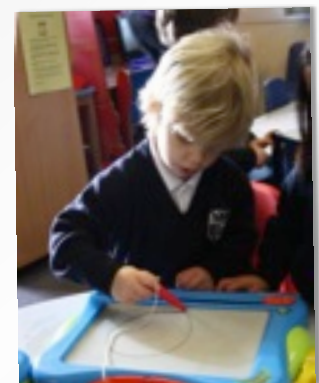
**Elmer** by David McKee.

**Elmer** is a classic children's tale. David McKee has

written many books about the colourful, patchwork elephant and there are a wide variety of different materials on the market to represent his colourful Elephant.

However, this title has been chosen because the story also holds a special message that it is okay to be different.

Firstly show your child the front cover, talk about the Title and the Author. On turning next to the back cover, you can read a short synopsis of the story and start to discuss together what will happen in the story.



# EARLY YEARS IN FOCUS

<http://kentcollege.com/early-years>

## Here is an overview of the story for you to read before seeing the book.

Elmer is not like the other elephants in the herd. They are all grey whereas he is a patchwork of lots of different colours. Although **Elmer** appears happy with his fun nature, deep down he is beginning to feel sad about the fact that he looks very different.

**Elmer** decides to leave his herd the next day and head off into the jungle. He sees a bush covered in grey berries and has a thought. He shakes the berries to the ground, rolls on them to cover himself all over.

Now he is the same colour as all the other elephants. On returning to his herd, whilst he is very happy that none of the other elephants recognise him, he also notices that they do not look very happy any more. **Elmer** is an elephant that loves playing tricks, so after a while he

shouts 'BOO'. The elephants are so pleased when they realize it is him.

Unfortunately, the next thing that happens is that it begins raining. The rain washes off the berry dye and **Elmer** is suddenly back to being a colourful, patchwork elephant. All of the elephants are so pleased to have him back with them, they decided that each year they would have a special day to remember this by. They would have a parade where the grey elephants would become decorated in colours and **Elmer** would make himself grey again.

## Activities

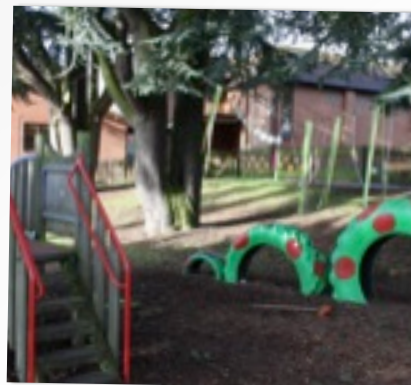
**Elmer** helps identify colours to young children in a fun way together with a simple text that is easily understood. Together with your child, they could make their own **Elmer** book. (Please refer to our first article of **Letters are Shapes** regarding making books.)

Remind your little one that stories need a title (Like **Elmer**) and that they are going to be the Author. (Very exciting!)

Children could draw pictures on each page and be encouraged to use different coloured pencils to colour in the squares. As well as reinforcing colour, this exercise will practise their pencil control .

As your child tells you the story, write the words used by your child underneath the picture. At this stage it is best to keep the words simple. This exercise gives ownership to your child of their own book and makes the connection between their ideas, their picture and the written words.

This particular story also teaches young children about differences and how being different is not a bad thing. **Elmer** shows that although he looks different, he has many qualities to offer that people





Here is a song you may wish to share with your child,  
**What colour is your skin?**  
**What colour is your skin?**  
**Everybody's skin is different you see**  
**And that's what makes us special, as special as can be.**

**What colour are your eyes?**  
**What colour are your eyes?**  
**Everybody's eyes are different you see**  
**And that's what makes us special, as special as can be.**

**What colour is your hair?**  
**What colour is your hair?**  
**Everybody's hair is different you see**  
**And that's what makes us special, as special as can be.**

**Open Morning Saturday 26th March**  
**Active Play - Active Learning**

We will be sharing the Elmer stories and demonstrating many of the activities introduced in this month's articles on Saturday March 26th 2011 between 0930 - 1200. Throughout our themed morning 'Active Play - Active Learning', feel free to bring along your young child and explore together the array of learning opportunities. Qualified staff will also be on hand to chat with you and share more ideas right for your child. Please register your interest by clicking on the button 'Active Play - Active Learning Morning'.