



## Lesson: **Jungle Animals**

Ages: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Supplies needed: No supplies needed, however, there should be at least 3 players.

Project Intro: This lesson gives children an opportunity to physically embody animals and to think about how they move and how they sound.

Objectives:

- Increases attention span
- Promotes body awareness and refine motor coordination
- Develops a keen sense of observation
- Provides cognitive/academic skills training
- Learns cooperation, positive interaction and adaptability
- Experiences appropriate touch

Project steps:

### **Warm-Up Activity:**

- **Elephant, Raccoon, Rabbit**
  - One person volunteers to be the facilitator. The facilitator begins by demonstrating how each animal is made by three people. The instructions to form each animal are as follows:
    - **ELEPHANT**
      - Nose: The child in the middle makes two fists and places them end-to-end extending from the center of the child's nose to make the elephant's trunk (their nose).

- Ears: The children on the left and right side place an open hand facing forward next to the head without actually touching.
- **RACCOON:**
  - Eyes: The child in the middle puts the tips of his/her thumb and pointer fingers together over the eyes like pair of binoculars.
  - Ears: The children on the left and right side cup their hand and place it lightly on the "raccoon's" head.
- **RABBIT:**
  - Tail: The child in the middle makes a fist behind their back at the base of their tailbone.
  - Ears: The children on the left and right place their pointer fingers just behind the temple, lightly touching the "rabbit's" head.

### Sample Image



- After the facilitator has finished demonstrating how to create each of the three animals, children and their family members all gather together in a circle and take turns practicing creating the "elephant," then the "rabbit" and then the "raccoon."
- The facilitator chooses a child to be "it." The child who is "it" steps inside of the circle and will then point to any child in the circle they wish, calling out one of the three animals, e.g., "Elephant." and quickly counts "1,2,3,4,5." (If the children need more time, you may increase by counting to 10.) As quickly as possible, the selected child makes the elephant trunk with two fists in front of his nose. The

children sitting to the immediate right and left of the chosen child add the correct specific animal ears (Note: this means the child on the left will use their closest hand to make the ear, which is their right hand, and visa versa for the child on the right). All three children attempt to complete the addition of their animal body-part before the facilitator stops counting. The player who takes the longest or does the wrong body part, then has to be "it." This child should quickly select and point to another child while calling out the name of another animal of his/her choice.

- If you have a larger group of 6 or more participants, you can make an even harder challenge, by allowing the child who is "it" to name two animals by pointing at one child and call "elephant" and then turn quickly around and point at another child and call a different animal such as "rabbit." This is especially hilarious to watch as all the players move their arms and hands in all directions.

### **Drama Activity:**

- **Primal Jungle Animals**

- Each child will choose a jungle animal to act out.
- Ask the child "How does this animal move?" and "How does this animal sound?" Look up a video of the animal online so they can see a demonstration.
- Have the children practice moving and sounding like the animal.
- Then ask the children "What makes the heart beat fast? Happiness, Anger, Fear?"
- Tell the children that you will clap your hands and they should now move and sound like the animal moving at the pace of your clapping. They should do three rounds – moving and sounding like the animal when they are happy, when they are angry and when they are scared.
- Start with slow clapping and then gradually increase the speed until you are clapping very fast.