

Sensory and Music Story: Big Days Out – The Zoo!

This ‘Sensory and Music Story’ has been designed to be used either by a parent / carer and child at home, or as part of a Music Therapy session, led by a Music Therapist via Zoom.

Hints and tips:

- Gather all the props before you start. If you do not have everything exactly, don't worry – any improvisations are fine!
- Familiarise yourself with the story and what happens where. Think how you will use the props and songs to make the most impact and sense to the child you are working with.
- It is natural to feel self-conscious about singing, but there are no ‘X Factor’ style judgements being made about your voice! If you can sing with more confidence and volume then that will make more of an impact – it does not matter if you are out of tune (or think you are!).
- If you have other small instruments at home, you may want to use these with the child you are working with during the songs.
- Read the story slowly, repeating the part of the story that has just been read when feeling the relevant props. If the child is responsive to a certain part – or you know from previous experience that they will enjoy something – then stay longer with that prop or song.

Props:

Big bag

Rain coat / umbrella

Leaves

Any zoo animals!

Water – spray or container to feel / splash

Scarf / wafty material

Furry fabric / soft toy to feel

Your favourite zoo animal or souvenir

Chimes / bells

Any other musical instruments

The Story:

It was a lovely sunny day, so we decided to go to the zoo!

Sing: 'We're all going to the zoo today'

What will we need to take?

Feel: food for the animals, rain coat / umbrella in the bag

We all got in the van together and set off!

It was so exciting to get to the zoo... What is your favourite animal? I wonder if it is one we will see today!

First of all, we went to see the giraffes! The giraffes have got really loooooong necks. They love to eat leaves, so the zoo keeper let us feed the giraffes the leaves we had brought with us!

Feel: Feel / stretch neck, and reach up high with the leaves to feed to the giraffe!

Which animal will we find next? I could hear some heavy stamping... and some trumpeting! What do you think it is? It was the elephants, with their long trunks and their big flappy ears! I wonder if any of them are called Nellie?

Sing: Nellie the Elephant – and stamp along!

If the elephants weren't called Nellie – perhaps they are called Elmer!! Elmer is a multicoloured, patchwork elephant - but he tried to paint himself grey so that he looked the same as everyone else! But - we are all different!

Sing: Elmer the Rainbow Elephant Song

The elephants were spraying out water from their trunks – it went a long way, and we started to get wet! But none of the grey of the elephants was washed away to reveal a patchwork Elmer!

Feel: Flick / spray some water!

We came to a big building - I wonder what is going to be inside here? We peeked in and... it was the Insect House! We had seen some of the biggest animals – and now here were some of the smallest! There were some tiny ladybirds, with their red and black wings, and fireflies, bees, ants and grasshoppers – which meant we could even see some zoo animals in the garden at home!

Sing: I have a little ladybird – scarf song

Sing: The Insect Song

Fortunately the rain stopped and we could carry on outside, visiting lots of the other animals, such as...

Sing: If you're a monkey and you know it

Near the way out was the 'Familiar Friends' where we could go and actually stroke some of the smaller animals! There was a friendly guinea pig who was fluffy and furry to pet!

Feel: Stroke some furry material / a fluffy soft toy

We went out through my favourite part – the shop! What will you buy?

Feel: Your favourite zoo animal or souvenir!

Soon it was time to get back in the van. When we got home, it was already dark and the stars were out, twinkling above us. Thank you for a fun day out!

Sing: 'Twinkle twinkle' – play chimes or bells

Song Words

We're All Going to the Zoo Today

We're all going to the zoo today,
Zoo today, zoo today
We're all going to the zoo today,
We're going to stay all day

We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo
How about you, you, you
You can come too, too, too
We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo

Nellie the Elephant

Nellie the elephant packed her trunk and said goodbye to the circus
Off she went with a trumpety trump
Trump trump trump
Nellie the elephant packed her trunk and trundled back to the jungle
Off she went with a trumpety trump
Trump trump trump

Elmer the Rainbow Elephant Song *(to the tune of 'I Can Sing a Rainbow'.)*

Young and old and tall and short,
Fat and thin, coloured and grey.
All of different sizes, different sizes,
But all love to play.

See the elephants, see the elephants,
A patchwork one you will see.
Lots of different colours, different colours,
Colourful is he.

Yellow, turquoise and pink is he,
Purple and orange and green.
Elmer the elephant, the elephant,
Is the one you've seen.
(Twinkl)

I have a little ladybird – scarf song

I have a little ladybird (*swish scarves from side to side*)

Ladybird, ladybird

I have a little ladybird

Her wings are black and red

See the little ladybird,

Ladybird, ladybird

See the little ladybird

Flying here and there (*fly the scarves around*)

Now she's landing on the ground (*circle the scarves as if coming in to land*)

On the ground, on the ground

Now she's landing on the ground

And crawling everywhere! (*'crawl' the scarves – tickling the child with them if appropriate*)

The Insect Song (*Tune: The Wheels on the Bus*)

The firefly at night goes blink, blink, blink

Blink, blink, blink, blink, blink, blink,

The firefly at night goes blink, blink, blink

All night long!

The bees in the flower go buzz, buzz, buzz...

The ants in the grass go march, march, march...

The grasshoppers in the field go hop, hop, hop...

If you're a monkey and you know it! (*Tune: If you're happy and you know it*)

If you're a monkey and you know it, jump up and down (oo oo)

If you're a monkey and you know it, jump up and down (oo oo)

If you're a monkey and you know it, and you really want to show it,

If you're a monkey and you know it, jump up and down (oo oo)

If you're a meerkat and you know it, look up and around (simples)...

If you're a lion and you know it, give a roar (ROAR!)...

If you're a penguin and you know it waddle and slide (weee!)...

Twinkle Twinkle

Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are!

Songs: public domain except where specified
Story © Ruth Ellam 2020 / 2021 / 2022