

## Funny Animal Theatre: Toddlers

**Funny Animals** are the characters of a children's puppet show where **Toddlers** are animals with a personality that become strong and skilful together with the child as well as learning to communicate.

**For children aged 3-7 years**

### Development goals:

1. Developing fine motor skills and hand coordination
2. Strengthening palm muscles
3. Learning spatial orientation
4. Developing and activating vocabulary and enhancing speech expression
5. Learning to control oneself
6. Raising a child's vitality to enhance emotional wellbeing and personal development

### Different Games:

#### Getting Acquainted

Put the Toddler Baby Elephant on your fingers and hide it in the palm of your other hand. Show the child who's hiding in your hand. Let the Elephant come alive in your hands, jumping and raising his trunk. After seeing such manipulations with the toy, the child will want to play with the Baby Elephant himself. Now you can show the child how to put the trainer on the fingers and how to play with it.

**Finger Twister** (strengthens fingers and helps to develop attention and coordination)

Prepare a field of coloured circles before the game (Figure 1). They can be drawn with colour felt-tip markers, cut out of coloured paper, or printed out on a colour printer. Invite the child to play with the Baby Elephant.

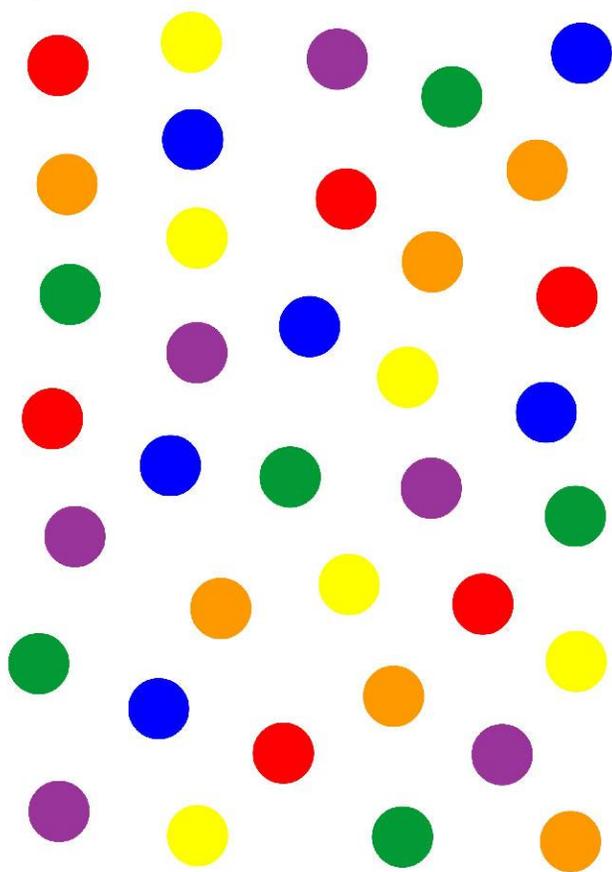


Figure 1

### Tasks for the Elephant:

Put

1. The Elephant's forelegs on yellow circles and its hind legs on blue circles
2. Each of the Elephant's legs on a different green circle

3. The Elephant's left foreleg on a purple circle, its right foreleg on an orange circle, its right hind leg on a green circle, and its left hind leg on a red circle
4. Both of the Elephant's left legs on one blue circle and its right legs on a green circle
5. The forelegs on one green circle and the hind legs on an orange and a yellow circle

Attention! If the child's fingers are not well trained, it is better not to practice with the toy for over 5 minutes. Do the tasks first with your left hand and then with your right hand.

**Baggage** (for increasing dexterity, strengthening palm muscles, and enhancing spatial orientation)

Prepare small objects that can be put on the Baby Elephant's back: for example, bits of paper, cloth, clay putty, erasers, etc.

Invite the child to carry as fast as possible the small objects on the Baby Elephant's back along the path (Figure 2) to

1. A house
2. A tree
3. A bridge

Or put them

4. To the right of the house
5. To the left of the bridge
6. To the right of the apple tree

The task can be made more complicated by making a small hill at the end of the path (for example, by using a pillow). The goal is to overcome the obstacle without losing the object.

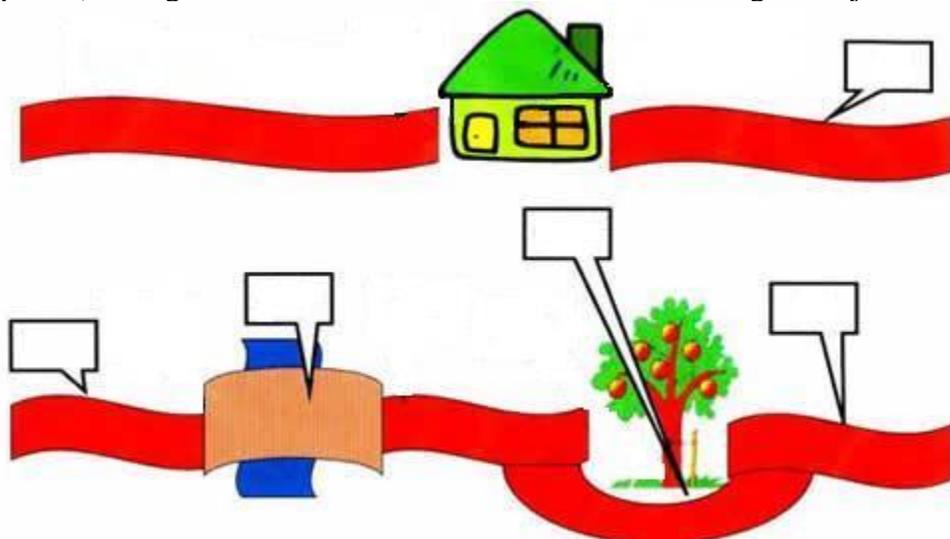


Figure 2

### Acrobatic Elephant

Elephants can use their trunks to carry trees weighing up to 250 kg. It's a fact! Our Baby Elephant can perform acrobatic tricks using its little trunk. To play the game, you'll need

1. A circus arena (for example, a table or chair)
2. A ring taken from a plastic bottle or cut out of cardboard
3. Pens, felt-tip markers, and caps from them

Attention! A world-famous acrobat is on stage!

Let the child put the toy on his hand and try to perform the following acrobatic tricks:

#### Tricks with a ring

1. Hold the ring on the tip of the Baby Elephant's trunk
2. Move the ring from the middle of the trunk to the tip and back by turning the ring
3. Make the Baby Elephant sit on its hind legs without dropping the ring
4. Stand up on one foot (e.g., left hind leg or right foreleg) without dropping the ring from the tip of the trunk
5. Throw the ring to the trunk of another elephant (if playing in a pair)
6. Throw the ring onto a felt-tip marker (the marker should be held in the other hand)

In Tricks 1, 3, and 4, one can use caps from felt-tip markers or pens instead of rings.

### Tricks with felt-tip markers (pens)

1. Make the Baby Elephant raise the end of the marker with his trunk in order to turn it over in the other direction
2. Move the marker from one side of the "arena" to the other

### Hide-and-Seek

This game requires preparation. One should draw a map of the place (for example, the child's room) where the Baby Elephant will hide and mark 2 or 3 possible points where the Baby Elephant can be. Hide the Baby Elephant and invite the child to find his friend (using the map). Encourage the child while he does it.

### Fun Finger Games with the Baby Elephant

We stomped, we stomped. We reached the apple tree. We reached the apple tree And our feet got tired.	One moves all the fingers quickly and rhythmically down the table.
The elephant ran to the water. It went for a swim and got tired.	One quickly moves all the fingers down the table. One raises all the fingers up imitating a wave and bends each finger, showing how the Baby Elephant swims.
The elephant performed in a circus And trampled all the paths. Turning about gracefully It got a carrot.	Holding all four fingers together, one moves each of them in place. One raises the middle finger (the Baby Elephant's trunk) as high as possible.

### Games for Two

If a child has several Baby Elephants, one can hold competitions. For example:

1. **The First to the Finish.** The game track can be a table with a start and a finish line. Put the Baby Elephants on your fingers. The goal is to be the first to reach the finish line without losing the Elephant on the way.
2. **Football.** Several children can participate. Preparation: mark the goal and make a ball out of play putty or aluminium foil (using a candy wrapper, for example). The goal is to kick the ball into the goal. Who scores the most goals wins.
3. **Dance Lesson.** Invite the child to put a Baby Elephant on each hand. Put a mirror before the child's hands. The goal is to perform the same actions with the fingers of the left and right hands. For example: raise the pinky, sit down on the hind legs, or raise the trunk as high as possible. Everything should be done synchronously. A good idea is to do it to music.

### Fairy Tales with the Toddler Baby Elephant

Together with the Baby Elephant, one can read books, listen to music, solve puzzles, and learn new things. A good idea is to read fairy tales before bedtime.

### Night is falling outside

**Ann** (the child's name) **and I are going to bed.**

**Toddler wants a fairy tale:**

**Let's read a bit!**

The expressive reading of fairy tales is an important element of a child's development. The Baby Elephant can become one of the fairy tale's characters. Invite the child to change the plot of the story so as to incorporate the Toddler Baby Elephant into it.

**We wish you success!**