Elephants come out to play

One baby elephant went out to play,
All on his own on a sunny day.

Across the field his friend shouted, “Boo!”
And ran to meet him, so now there’s two.

Two baby elephants went out to play,
Splashing in puddles on a rainy day.

Another friend shouted, “Hey, don’t forget me!”
She ran to join them, so now there’s three.

Three baby elephants went out to play,
Wearing their scarves on a cold, windy day.

Their friend called George was chasing straw,
They ran to join him, so now there’s four.

Four baby elephants went out to play,
Down to the river on a very hot day.

Wearing their trunks they all went for a dive,
Playing with Annie, so now there’s five.

What to do
Share the rhyme with the children, encouraging them to act it out.
Children could shout: “Boo!”, put on imaginary scarves, pretend to dive or splash in puddles, chase straws.
Model the rhyme with toy elephants or other creatures.
Count the elephants

Draw a ring around the matching number.

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

Vocabulary

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, number, more, match, matching, count, how many?

What to do

Look at each picture with the children. Help them to count the elephants.

Explain that the number tells them ‘how many’ there are.

Support the children as they draw a ring around the appropriate number for each picture.

Be aware that children are simply matching and may not understand the value of the number.
Match the elephants

Play the game, match the elephants.

Matching: one-to-one correspondence
Vocabulary
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, number, match, matching, count, how many?

You will need: a pencil and a paperclip to use the spinner, two different playing pieces such as counters or buttons

What to do
This is a game for two players or two teams.
Children take turns to spin the spinner to choose an elephant.
They place one of their playing pieces on a matching elephant in the grid.
Play continues until every elephant has been matched and covered.
If all the pictures of a particular elephant have been matched, the child misses that turn.
For a more challenging game, children replace one of the other player’s playing pieces with one of their own.

Further activities
Some children may be able to identify the winner of the game by comparing the playing pieces on the board.
Each player removes their pieces and matches them, one-to-one, with the other player’s pieces.
The child with unmatched pieces is the winner.
Match the elephant to its tree

Match each elephant to its tree.

Vocabulary
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, number, match, matching, count, altogether, how many?

What to do
The children draw a line from each elephant to a tree, matching the numbers.
The children could count the fruit, to find the value of the number on the tree.
They may also count the spots on the dice to begin to recognise the spot pattern.
Count the animals

Colour the number that matches the set.

What to do
As children begin to count accurately, they will be able to identify the matching number in a set.
Children may not be able to write the numbers for themselves yet.

Vocabulary
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, number, match, matching, count, altogether, set, group, how many?