



Baby Elephant Goes for a Swim

Level C / 45 words / fiction

High frequency words:

and, at, down, for, go, in, is, look, no, the, up

Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "Have you ever seen an elephant? Where do elephants live? Did you know that elephants can swim?"

Look through all the pictures

- Discuss what is happening in each picture. Using the language of the text, explain that elephants like to swim, play in water, and sleep in the sun.
- Help the children find the words that may be new to them: *playing, asleep, and shake*.

Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
- While they're reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.
- Make sure the children can match (with their finger) or track (with their eyes) each word of the text.

After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you noticed students using correctly at difficulty.
- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "Where is Baby Elephant? Where is Big Elephant? What does Big Elephant do when she gets wet?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "At the end, why is Big Elephant looking for Baby Elephant?"

Word work

- Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Find and clap the two-syllable words in the story: *looking, asleep, playing, baby, river, and swimming*.
- Find the word *shake*. Explain the sound of *sh*.
- Find the words with the *-ing* ending: *playing, looking, and swimming*. Ask students to think of other words with the *-ing* ending.

Rereading for fluency

- Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner.
- Use this opportunity to listen to each child and again prompt for strategy use at difficulty.

Writing activity

- Review the *ing* words in the story. Have the students write the sentence: "*Baby Elephant is _____.*" and fill in the blank with an *-ing* word. Then have them draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written. Encourage independent attempts to spell words correctly and the proper use of punctuation.

FUN FACT

Elephants can use their trunks as a snorkel when swimming underwater.

Teaching Points: Introducing new words; Cross-checking difficult words with pictures and story meaning; Rereading; Introducing the *-ing* ending; Practicing the *sh* sound; Finding and clapping two-syllable words.