

Tap the Magic Tree Author: Christie Matheson

This book comes in multiple forms, read aloud, board books and big books. Incorporating a variety of reading methods, makes a fun and interactive experience for you and your child. Mr. Elephant is a fun way to dive into the reading experience. Holly Ridge Center providers love Mr. Elephant enthusiasm, while incorporating songs, and props into story time.

A magical book-reading with Mr. Elephant:



At home activities:

- Creating a magical tree with nature
 - Let the child use their imagination to create their own tree. Leaves, sticks, flowers, grass, dirt, glue, and paper.
- Nature sensory exploration
 - Use any outdoor materials to let your child explore different textures, and colors. Incorporating language into the sensory experience. Help your child label what their actions are (scooping, pouring, poking, stacking, dumping, ripping).
- Nature Walk
 - Take a nature walk outside and stop to look closely at a tree. Observe the tree and describe it. Help your child understand what they see and hear in nature.
- Playdough fun
 - Use homemade playdough or store-bought playdough. Create and decorate a playdough tree.

Tips for reading to toddlers

- Here are a few tips for reading to your toddler at home.
- Its great to adapt the story to your child's attention span.
 - You can skip pages and not read all the words.
 - Talk about a few key things in the middle and the end; that is a successful book reading.
- Think about ways to interact with the book beyond the pages.
 - Make sounds for animals or vehicles. Use exclamations!
 - Be animated and silly.
- It is ok, to put the book down and use your hands or find things around the house to 'act out' themes in a book. Beanbags can be apples, blocks can be apples, balls can be apples. What else can you find in the house?