National Simultaneous Storytime activity ideas

- Draw your favourite character from the book and make stick puppets. Put on a puppet show!
- Ask children to write their own story – Eric had elephants living in his house but if you could have any animal living in your house what animal would it be?
- Dress up – have a competition for best dress up on the day. Encourage children (and adults!) participating in your NSS events to dress up with costumes, masks and hats.
- Elephant activity ideas
  - Download this count and colour sheet from the author’s website.
  - Download and print an elephant mask from the author’s website or have the children make their own.
  - Write a poem about elephants.
  - Have an elephant discussion. Have you ever seen an elephant? What do you know about elephants? Read elephants facts and quiz students. Elephant activities from National Geographic
  - Ask event participants, how many elephants that can find in this book?
- Elephant jigsaw puzzle
- Get crafty! Make colourful elephants with children, decorate part of library or classroom with them.
  - Paper elephant tutorial
  - Paper elephant
  - Elephant mobile
  - Trumpeting elephant
- Make a day of it, have an elephant themed day at school, hold an event in the library for students, learn facts about elephants, take part in elephant activities all day.
- Read the book in assembly and have each class do a performance on elephants.
- Plan an excursion for your class and read Too Many Elephants in this House at your local zoo!
- After reading the book ask the children start a discussion:
  - What would you do if you had too many elephants in your house?
  - What might you build or make for them to live in?
  - Where might they fit? Use your imagination!
  - Can you draw a new place for the elephants to live?
Songs & Rhymes

- **Eletelephony** from DLTK
- **At the Zoo** from DLTK
- **One Elephant** from DLTK
- **An Elephant Walks Like This and That** from DLTK

Author & illustrator resources

Other books by Ursula Dubosarsky and Andrew Joyner include:

- **The Terrible Plop** by Ursula Dubosarsky, illustrated by Andrew Joyner
- **Yobbos do Yoga** illustrated by Andrew Joyner
- **Boris** illustrated by Andrew Joyner
- **What’s the Matter Aunty May?** illustrated by Andrew Joyner
- **The Sway** illustrated by Andrew Joyner
- **The Word Spy** by Ursula Dubosarsky
- **The Carousel** by Ursula Dubosarsky
- **The Game of the Goose** by Ursula Dubosarsky

Links

- Read [Andrew Joyner’s account](#) of illustrating the book.
- Watch this [interview](#) with the book’s author Ursula Dubosarsky.
- Check out [Ursula Dubosarsky’s website](#).
- Check out [Andrew Joyner’s website](#).

Story Matches — Books with similar themes or categories

- **Mr. McGee and the Elephants** by Pamela Allen
- **Little Elephants** by Graeme Base
- **The Elephant and the Bad Baby** by Vipont1Elfrida
- **TingaTanga Tales: Why Elephant has a Trunk** by TingaTinga Tales
Publicity ideas

- Invite a VIP guest to be a reader at your NSS event. You can use the NSS letterhead to write your invitation letter.

- Invite the media. The media loves colourful, feel-good stories and being in the paper, on a news website or even on the television news can be a lot of fun! With your NSS posters and balloons, your VIP guest reader and your group dressed up in masks and costumes there will be lots of moments to create a positive media story. Use your networks or build new connections with your local media outlets to help us promote literacy and reading to Australian children. Check our resources page for some handy hints.

- Don’t forget to send photos and newspaper articles from your local media to events@alia.org.au.