

Houston Zoo at Home

AQUARIUM

Elephants have an incredible tool on their face that they use for just about everything – their trunk! They can pick up the smallest piece of food or move a huge tree branch that can weigh 300 pounds. With 40,000 muscles in just one body part, it sure comes in handy. Asian elephants like Thailand, Methai, and the rest of our herd only have one ‘finger’ on their trunk.

It may be difficult for you, but Methai and even the baby elephants (after learning how to use their trunks) find it very easy to pick up their food this way. Try out your truck skills in this activity.

Elephant Trunk Game

Ages 4 and up

Materials Needed:

- Long sock,
- Legos, coins, marbles, other small items,
- Bowl

Steps:

1. Place a variety of small items (Legos, coins, marbles) on the ground or other flat surface.
2. Place a sock on your hand – it should cover your entire hand and part of your arm.
3. Try picking up items with only your pointer finger.

Another Challenge: African elephants have two ‘fingers’ on the end of their trunk. Using just your pointer finger and thumb, try to pick up as many items as you can and place them in a bowl. Now, see if you can race the rest of your herd (family)!

Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.

Measure Up!

It's no surprise that elephants are huge! Just how big can they get? At birth, an elephant like Joy is on average about 3 feet tall. Thai, our 54-year-old adult male, is almost 12 feet tall (from the ground to middle of his back). How tall you are compared to our elephants?

Materials Needed:

- Chalk
- Measuring tape

Steps:

1. Draw a line on the sidewalk.
2. Now measure 12 feet from that line and draw a second line. This is how tall Thai is at the middle of his back.
3. Now lay down with your feet on the first line and draw a line where your head is.
4. Use the measuring tape and mark how tall you are. How many of you does it take to measure up to Thai? Are you taller or shorter than Joy?



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