

Book title: *The Mixed-Up Chameleon*

Author: *Eric Carle*

Supplies for activities needed:

- You!
- A ball
- A pillow or backpack

Activity Name: **Animal Interpretation Activity**

- School Readiness Outcomes (SRO) goals met:
  - Following multi-step or complex directions when acting out each animal - Understanding Speech
  - Trying alternative methods to solve problems, and being highly involved and persistent by trying different ways to act out each animal - Engages in Problem-Solving
  - Giving a detailed description of intended actions by sharing with friends and family how to act out a certain animal - Makes and Expresses Choices
- Instructions
  1. There were 9 animals other than the chameleon in the story that were at the zoo. We are going to act all 9 of them out, together! The order of acting out the animals will go as follows: polar bear, flamingo, fox, fish, deer, giraffe, turtle, elephant, and seal. Siblings, friends, and family can join in on the fun!
  2. First to act out is the polar bear! You will need to get on both of your hands and knees, or “all fours.” After you get on “all fours,” you can hunch your back up a little bit, just like a polar bear! Walk around in a circle and “roar” like a polar bear would!
  3. Next, is the flamingo. Stand up straight and grab your right foot with your right hand. Pull your right foot up to your

backside by bending the knee like a flamingo! If you think you can balance, try letting go of your right foot and leaving the leg bent in the air and hold as long as you can. Another way to test your balance is to try touching your toes on your left foot! Grab the right foot, like earlier, and take the left hand to bend over and touch the toes.

4. Third, is the fox. Get down on “all fours” like you did in the polar bear exercise. Once on the ground on your hands and knees, slowly tiptoe in a zig-zag line. Try tiptoeing from one wall to another. And if you’re up for a challenge, try tiptoeing backwards in a zig-zag line!
5. Fourth, is the fish. You will only need your hands and your mouth to be like a fish! Start by sucking in your cheeks. Then, put your thumbs on your cheeks and wave/wiggle your fingers! Your hands and fingers should look like the fins on the fish.
6. Next, is the deer. You will need to sit down on your knees and touch your thumbs to the top of your head. Think of a reindeer and how their antlers are on the very top of their heads. Spread your fingers out as far as they can to make the biggest antlers!
7. Up next, is the giraffe! Stand as tall as you can like a giraffe would. Stretch your neck as high as it can go, think of trying to eat the leaves on the tallest tree!
8. Seventh, is the turtle. Grab a pillow or a backpack and put it on your back like the shell on a turtle. To be like a turtle, you will have to get down on “all fours” and hunch over. Think of how small a turtle is and how far you will need to hunch over. Try walking as slow as you can from one side of the room to the other. Time yourself and see how long it will take you!
9. Next, is the elephant. Stand up tall on your feet, take one or both of your arms, and raise your arms up to your nose. Swing your arms, together, up and down like an elephant! If

you know what an elephant sounds like, make that sound while you swing your arms. Next, stomp in a circle like a giant elephant would while swinging and singing like an elephant.

10. Finally, our last animal is the seal. You will need to lay down, flat on your stomach. Stick your arms and legs straight out, then lift them off the ground and see how long you can hold your arms and legs in the air! Seals also like to do tricks and bounce a ball off of their head. Try this activity outside with a sibling or friend. Bounce a ball back and forth on your heads and foreheads.
  11. Show all of your friends and family which animal was your favorite to act out! Challenge them to act it out like you did. See who can act like the craziest animal in the zoo!
- Extension Activity Ideas
    - Dress up as the animals while acting them out!
    - Do a little research on each of the animals that you acted out. See where each animal lives, what they eat, and how they interact with other animals! Share with friends and family!

