

# P.A.W.S. POSITIVE ACTIONS WILL SHINE

OCTOBER 2012 **READING CHALLENGE**



*Monthly Challenge:* Be kind to others and except each other's differences.

*Walk Away Message from Elmer:* Individual differences create unique personalities. Be true to yourself.

*Positive character traits from the story, Elmer:* courage, respect, compassion, cooperative

Monthly Book Choice: **Elmer** by David McKee

Elmer the elephant is a colorful character. His heady optimism and funny sense of humor keep the entire community in a cheery mood. Elmer's unusual multicolored, checkerboard hide is the wonder of all the other gray elephants. In spite of his sunny disposition, Elmer begins to feel sad because he is different from the rest of the elephants. He starts to believe the others are laughing at him because of his crazy patchwork coat. When Elmer discovers a bush in the jungle with elephant-colored berries, he shakes the bush and rolls in a berry mash until he is as gray as the others. After a while he begins to realize just how quiet and dull things are when he's not around. At the end of the story, all the elephants proclaim that they love Elmer just the way he is and they want to celebrate him by having a parade in his honor and having everyone dressing up in patchwork colors like him.

Parents,  
It is always important to have conversations with your children and ask them questions about his or her day. If you are driving in your car, eating dinner, or reading a book together it is important to have discussions. Here are some discussion questions to ask your

child about the book of the month, Elmer:

1. Why does Elmer want to be the same color as the other elephants?
2. Would you like to be different or all the same? Why?
3. What would you do if someone looked different?

4. What would you do if you saw someone teasing someone else?

