

# Ganesh and the Moon



The activities in this Programme link to the Squirrel Smile Awards, I'm Learning by playing some new games and also I'm Caring by hearing a story from the Hindu faith.

An introductory activity can be used as the Squirrels arrive at the meeting place – colouring or simple puzzles can keep children occupied until all the Drey arrives or use a 'joining-in' style game, such as 'The farmer wants a wife' or 'Duck, duck, goose' or a circle format ball game. Add snack time where necessary!

TIME (mins)	ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT
5	Welcome, Register, Opening Ceremony, Introduction to Programme	
10	<p>Game: Chupa Chuppi</p> <p>In India the children play lots of games similar to our games – snakes and ladders, Ludo, chess, marbles, etc. Chupa Chuppi is a similar to Hide and Seek. Have fun playing this slightly different version where a toy is hidden instead of a child!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>The Squirrels sit on the floor in a circle, they must all close their eyes (very tightly)</i></li> <li>○ <i>The Leadership team stands around the outside of the circle – they will be the hiding places for the small toy!</i></li> <li>○ <i>A Leader hides the toy (it should be slightly visible – perhaps peeping out of a pocket, under an arm, inside a sock, etc.)</i></li> <li>○ <i>On the call of 'Chupa Chuppi', the Squirrels open their eyes and, without jumping up or moving around, try to spot where the toy is hiding!</i></li> </ul>	Small toy squirrel or similar item
10	<p>GAME: Uffangali</p> <p>In India the name Uffangali means 'blowing wind' – 'uff' means blowing and 'gali' means wind. It is a game a bit like Jacks. Seeds are placed in a pile, children take turns to try with one big puff to blow them off the pile, scattering them as far as possible. The scattered seeds are then picked up without touching the seeds beside them – if a seed is disturbed the turn ends. Each player tries to collect the biggest pile of seeds! Have fun playing this slightly different version where the 'seeds' are placed in the centre of a chalk circle!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Divide the squirrels into small groups</i></li> <li>○ <i>Each group is seated around a chalk circle with a pile of 'seeds' in the middle – lightweight seeds could be used or use small pieces of paper</i></li> <li>○ <i>In turn, the Squirrels try (with one big puff) to blow the 'seeds off the pile and out of the chalk circle – they can keep these 'seeds'</i></li> <li>○ <i>Play until either the chalk circle is empty or time has run out!</i></li> </ul>	Chalk Piles of 'seeds'
10	<p>STORY: Ganesh and the Moon</p> <p>Read the story below to learn a little bit about a favourite Hindu god.</p>	Story

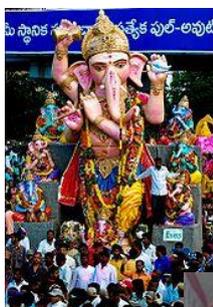


10	ACTIVITY: Enormous Elephant Make a simple standing elephant from folded lightweight card. The Squirrels can colour it with crayons, felt tips and decorate with collage materials!	Elephant pieces – body and ear cut from lightweight card Art materials
10	GAME: Trunks and Tails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>The Squirrels find a space in the hall</i></li> <li>○ <i>When a Leader calls out ‘trunks’ they all run about waving their arm in front of them, like a trunk</i></li> <li>○ <i>When a Leader calls out ‘tails’ they must sit down on the floor!</i></li> </ul>	None
5	Closing, Home	

## Ganesh - the elephant headed Hindu god

Ganesh (Ganesha or Ganapati) is a very special god for Hindus. He is easily recognised because he has the head of an elephant with only one tusk, a very fat tummy and four arms! He is often shown with a snake around his waist and riding on a rat. Because he is the god of wisdom and learning and can sort out problems, prayers are said to him at the start of any new adventure, like going on a journey, moving house or starting a new school. Most Hindu homes have a small statue of Ganesh.

Ganesh's birthday, the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated in August or September and in some parts of India huge images of Ganesh are paraded through the streets and then put into the river or the sea!



This is the story of something that happened on Ganesh's birthday!

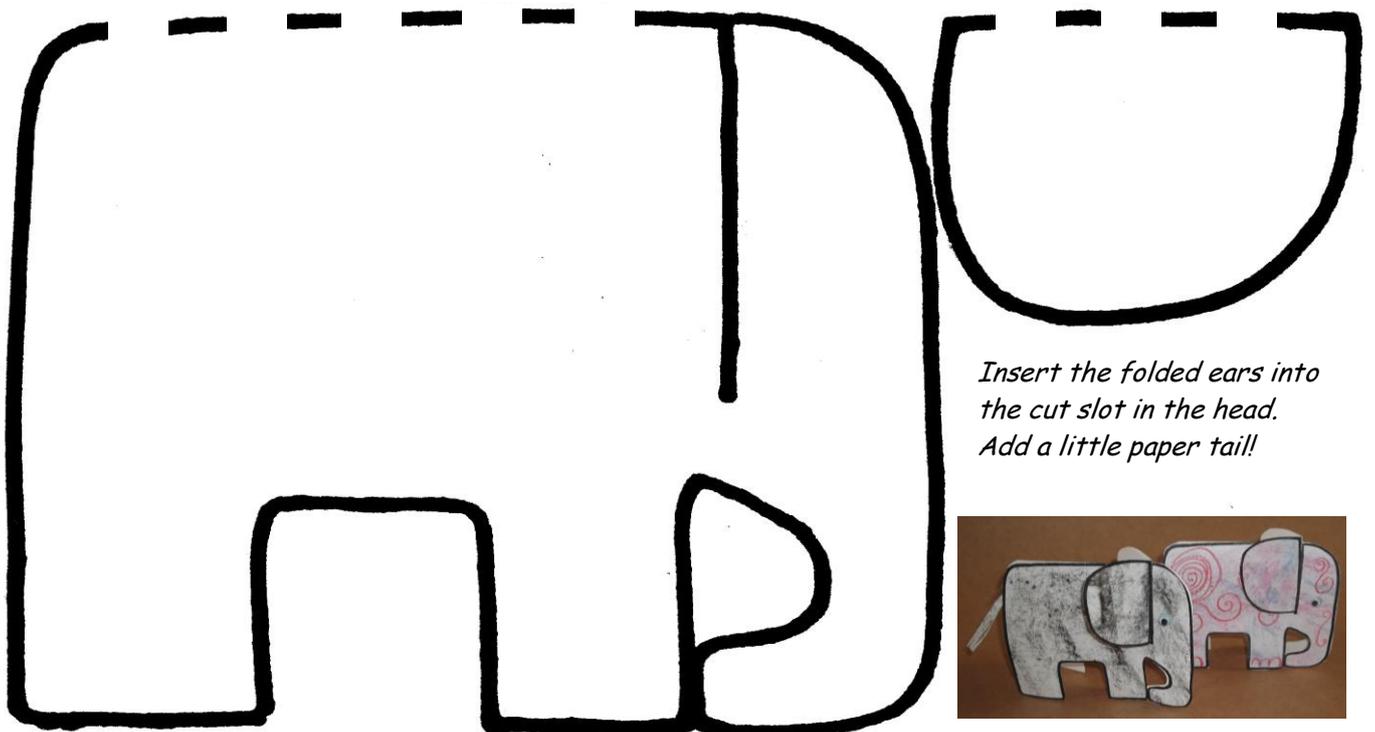
## Ganesh and the Moon

Once upon a time it was Ganesh's birthday. He had a big party! Ganesh loved food and he ate a really huge delicious birthday meal followed by lots and lots of sweets. In India everyone loves sticky sugary sweets; they are made in all sorts of different colours and flavours!

When it was time for Ganesh to go home from the party, he climbed up on to his rat's back and set off. Ganesh was very heavy and, even though the rat was strong, it was hard work! It was late and the road was dark. Every now and then the big golden round Moon slipped out from behind the clouds and shone down but then it disappeared again and it was hard to see where they were going. Suddenly, the rat tripped over something slithering along the path. Ganesh tumbled onto the ground. There was a loud 'crack'; his lovely jewelled belt had broken into pieces! There on the path was a long slithering snake! Ganesh struggled to get up, without his belt his dhoti pants (special Indian trousers) wouldn't stay up! Ganesh grabbed the snake and tied it round his great big tummy like a belt! Then he scrambled back onto the rat and off they went!

When the big round Moon slipped out from behind the clouds and saw Ganesh riding along on the rat with the snake tied round his big tummy it started to laugh! Ganesh got very cross with the Moon. He snapped off his right tusk and threw it up into the dark sky and shouted, 'Go away, Moon, and don't come back!' So the Moon went away and wouldn't come back. Because the Moon brought the night-time, now there was only day-time and the people couldn't sleep. They begged Ganesh to bring the Moon back and he did but because he was still cross he didn't allow the Moon to be big and round all the time. Sometimes it was thin and sometimes it was big and round and fat - just like Ganesh's tummy!!

*Place dotted line on fold of card and cut along thick black line*



*Insert the folded ears into the cut slot in the head.  
Add a little paper tail!*

