

Activities and Learning Objectives for the Topics of The Circus and Growing *Personal, Social and Emotional Development*

We will make the gazebo into a performance area and support the children to take part in individual or group shows for the others. We will discuss being nervous and excited about talking in front of the others. We will look at different lifestyles expanding on those of the children who live in the circus community. We will also reassure the children as clowns can be scary! With the topic of growing we will look at our relationships with parents, grandparents and siblings and talk about our pets. As we hopefully move out of lockdown we will support the children with any transitions.

Communication and Language

We will have paper puppets of circus characters which should encourage the children to make up narratives as they play. We will make microphones for ringmasters to make announcements at the performances. There are poems and rhymes for the children to join in (see *below*) and we will also listen to Mr Tumble's The Circus Song and Nellie the Elephant. There will be new vocabulary to learn around the Circus, animals, plants and life cycles.

Physical development

This will be the main focus of the Circus Topic. We will have a variety of bean bag and throwing and catching games when looking at juggling; balancing games looking at tightrope walking and tumbling and somersaults looking at acrobats. There will be games on the trampoline, with balloons, waterplay and balancing bean bags on heads and other parts of the body. We will use our PE equipment which includes hoops to crawl through, poles to jump over, cones and different styles of missiles to throw at targets. We will play with streamers to develop hand, arm and shoulder movements and bikes, trikes and scooters to develop balance and gross motor skills. These will develop further using garden tools to plant flowers and tidy the garden.

Literacy

We will read stories about the circus, other funny stories and books about the circus animals. We will look at initial sounds relating to different circus words such as acrobat, clown, elephant, juggling etc. For Growing we will look at non fiction books about flowers, plants, insects and life cycles. Again, literacy activities will also be dictated by each child's individual needs.

Mathematics

We will base a variety of counting activities around our book Circus Numbers. We will base measuring, ordering and comparing activities around big clown feet and clowns on stilts. We will make tickets for the performances and think about prices. Growing will reinforce work on size. There will be activities which involve the sequencing of pictures representing life cycles of the butterfly and the frog. These will be reinforced with other sequencing activities such as with cotton reels.

Understanding the World

The books and materials we will use about the Circus show non domestic animals performing. We will discuss the fact that they used to be trained but no longer are. We will look at the natural habitat of elephants, horses, tigers and seals. For Growing we will extend this by looking at a variety of life cycles, which are supported by ICT games. We will also look at conditions plants need to grow, identify wild flowers and there will be more work on seasons.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will make clown masks, clown cars, props for role play accompanied by circus music. We will make posters to advertise our circus and model trapeze artists on straws. We will paint on large sheets of paper with footballs and spray paints. We will make pictures of different flowers and make houses for minibeasts. We will continue to tell stories to act out as a group.

Circus poems and songs

I see a little clown with a bag tall hat
I see a clown who is short and really fat
I see a little clown with a funny nose
I see a clown with a pointy toes

I like the little clown who's big and string
I like the clown who's giggly all day long
I like the little clown who is happy as can be
I like the clown who dances for me

Mr Brown the circus clown
Puts his clothes on upside down
He wears his hat upon his toes
And socks and shoes upon his nose.

He ties his ties around his thighs
And wraps his belt around his eyes
He hangs his earrings from his hips
And stockings from his finger tips.

He puts his glasses on his feet
And shirt and coat around his seat
And when he's dressed, at last he stands
And walks around upon his hands

Let's Go To The Circus Today (to Mary Had a Little Lamb)

Let's go to the circus today
The circus today, the circus today
Let's go to the circus today
And watch the animals play

See lions jump through hoops
See the big seals spinning balls
See little dogs jump and twirl

Funny Clowns (to Frere Jaques)

Funny clowns, funny clowns
Jump around, jump around
Sometimes making faces
Sometimes making faces
Funny clowns, funny clowns

Funny clowns, funny clowns
Spin around, spin around
Sometimes with a big nose
Sometimes with two big toes
Funny clowns, funny clowns