

CURRICULUM BUILDERS



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA CHILDCARE RESOURCE SERVICE

RESOURCE AND REFERRAL

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www.ymca.org/crs

SUPPORTING CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



ABOUT THE STORY

Circus!
By Peter Spier

As the Circus McNulty rolls into town, an empty field is transformed into a miniature village, with a one-room school housed in a trailer truck; a vet who checks all the animals before the performance; and an international troupe of trainers, clowns, and acrobats. After the players have been introduced, it's show time: trick riders; trained seals, bears and lions; plate spinners; and the human cannonball. Even the intermission has its joys. But all good things must come to an end, and as the cars slowly bump their way out, the cleanup crew is hard at work, and hours later the field is left once again to the rabbits.

STORY STRETCHERS

While reading the story, ask children open ended questions that will encourage comprehension and deeper thinking. Below are questions to ask.

- How is everyone preparing for the circus?
- The circus is now set up. What happens next?
- Where do you think they will go next?

CRS RESOURCE LIBRARY

Curriculum Resource books and toys are available to check out at our library. Call 619-521-3055 ext. 2304 to make a library appointment.

WEB SITES

Here are some web sites to give you more curriculum ideas:

<http://www.everythingpreschool.com/themes/circus/index.htm>

<http://www.preschool-plan-it.com/circus.html#Sand>

<http://www.123child.com/lessonplans/animals/circus.php>

CONNECT WITH CRS!

Learn about upcoming events, Wellness Wednesday, Family Friday and more:

www.facebook.com/YMCA.CRS



SCIENCE

THAT'S SUCH A GAS!

Materials:

- Small Water Bottles
- Balloons
- Vinegar
- Baking Soda
- Small Funnel
- Teaspoon

Instructions:

- Encourage children to help put a teaspoon of baking soda into each bottle
- Have them pour about one inch of vinegar in a bottle; quickly
- The provider will quickly place a balloon over the opening of the bottle
- Watch the gas created will inflate the balloon

TIPS:

Try this on your own to get the correct proportions of vinegar and baking soda for the size of the bottles that you will use.



DRAMATIC PLAY

Setting up your Dramatic Play area for this theme will be only limited by your imagination. Turn a box into a ticket booth, tape jump ropes onto the floor for the children to balance on, and provide theme stuffed animals. You may also want to add a few items of "clown wear" for children to accessorize.

GROSS MOTOR

CLOWNING AROUND OBSTACLE COURSE FUN

You can utilize this obstacle course set to create an outdoor circus environment. The rings can be held upright as children pretend to be lions jumping through flaming hoops or the stepping stones can be used as a tightrope. The possibilities are endless with a bit of imagination.



This item may be checked out at the YMCA CRS Resource and Toy Lending Library.

MATH & FINE MOTOR FUN

SORTING CLOWN NOSES

Materials:

- Large, medium, and small plate/bowl
- Large, medium, and small red pom-poms
- Child safe tweezers

Instructions:

Encourage the children to use the tweezers to pick up and to sort the pom-poms by size into the corresponding size plate or bowl.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

CIRCUS CLOWN

Gather the children in a circle where there will be enough space for a child to go into the middle of the "ring" to do a circus trick. Going around the circle, sing the song below:

I am a circus clown

My name is Ching-A-Ling

Watch (Child's Name) do a circus trick inside the circus ring.

Go around the circle until all children have had a turn to go into the middle of the circle.

