

~Where Playing is Learning~

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123 Learn Curriculum is designed to promote the physical, social-emotional, cognitive, and language development of children. Every child is a unique person with an individual pattern and timing of growth. We believe in respecting and responding to each child's learning preference.

Play is a young child's "work" as they touch, manipulate, and experiment with materials, explore and observe the environment, and interact with adults and one another. Children are also highly encouraged to initiate their own activities and learning. Piaget states that "children should be able to do their own experimenting and their own research. Teachers of course, can guide them by providing the appropriate materials, but the essential thing is that in order for a child to understand something, he must construct it himself, he must re-invent it.

Children learn best with repetition. Repetition is an essential key to the physical development of a child's brain. The more something is repeated the more likely children are to remember it. Repetition in a variety of forms also increases the likelihood of reaching children with different learning styles and provides a more comprehensive understanding of concepts.

123 Learn Curriculum provides this opportunity though fun themes such as dinosaurs and monsters. Each theme incorporates a letter, color, number and shape, and themes that provide hands on opportunities to make learning fun.

123 Learn Curriculum also understands the areas of child development and incorporates the Minnesota's Early Childhood Indicators of Progress into lesson plans. Letting providers know what domains are being touched on with each activity listed under infant, toddler and preschool daily plans.



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What is 123 Learn Curriculum? 123 Learn Curriculum is a professionally planned preschool curriculum designed to be used in both family childcare homes and centers. This program offers the ease of printing up each day what you need and saving on waste. Money saving, this curriculum can be used over year after year.

What are the goals of 123 Learn Curriculum? 123 Learn Curriculum was developed by a childcare provider since 1985. The activities included are age appropriate and designed to help the whole child grow, and develop socially, physically and intellectually. Our program will help prepare each child for kindergarten, while opening the door for the children to be creative and express their artistic abilities.

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123 Learn Curriculum is suitable for children ages 2 to 5 but includes activities for infants and toddlers.

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Thank you again!

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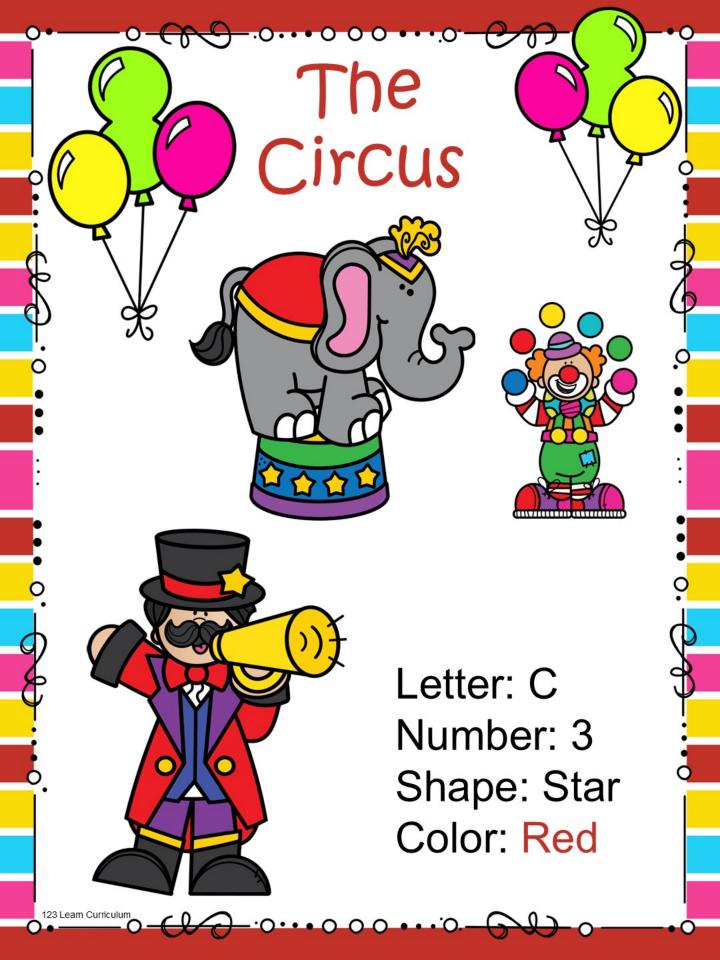


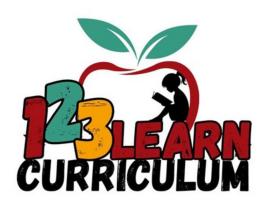












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The Circus

Hint on printing:

To save on ink - change your print quality on your printer to fast.

To do: click print - properties - change print quality from standard to fast.

This will give you a lower quality page but will save on ink.



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A circus theme is a good preschool theme because it creates a lively and imaginative atmosphere. It offers fun activities that work on math, literacy, fine motor skills, and science.

The theme can also introduce new concepts in a playful and engaging manner.

Have available red noses, colorful wigs, scarfs, bows, ribbons and oversize glasses. Place items in a box.

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The Circus

Mini Lesson Plan

Mini lesson plans are just that. A lesson plan that is not time consuming and a fun topic that you can use during the summer months.

Summer is a time for being outside and playing but there will be times that you would like to have a theme that you can incorporate into outdoor play, like our current theme the circus.

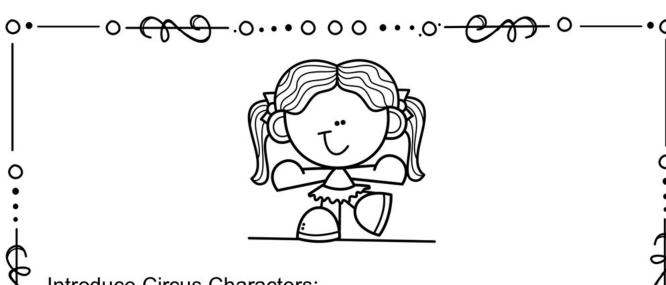
When discussing the circus with preschoolers, it's important to engage them in conversation about their experiences and interests. Talking to preschoolers about the circus can be a magical gateway into storytelling, imaginative play, and even early STEM concepts.

Start with the Senses:

 Ask questions like: "What sounds do you think you'd hear at the circus?" or "Can you move like a wobbly clown or a stomping elephant?" This taps into their imagination and helps build sensory vocabulary.

Use Visuals and Props:

 Show colorful images or play snippets of cheerful circus music. Simple props—like scarves for juggling, paper hats, or pretend tickets—can transform circle time into a fullblown show.



Introduce Circus Characters:

- Keep it playful:
 Clowns = silly, playful, make people laugh
 Acrobats = strong, balanced, daring
- Animals = (imaginary or puppet-based) great for talking
 about movement and sound

Tips for effective communication:

- Ask open-ended questions:
- Encourage preschoolers to share their thoughts and feelings about the circus. Questions like "What do you think is the most exciting part of the circus?" can spark interesting responses.

Use storytelling:

Incorporate stories about the circus, such as the Little Clown, to make the learning process more engaging.

Encourage creativity:

Allow preschoolers to express their creativity by creating their own circus characters or props. This can help them understand the concept of the circus in a more personal way.



Discuss the circus's impact:

Talk about how the circus can transport people to different places and experiences, and how it can inspire creativity and imagination.

Explore the circus's history:
Share information about the history
of the circus and how it has evolved
over time, which can provide a deeper
understanding of the theme. By using
these strategies, you can create a fun
and informative environment for
preschoolers to learn about the circus



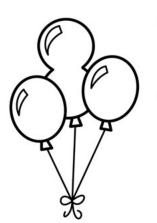
Learning about the circus can be a fun theme.

Here are rich, week-long circus ideas packed with sensory,
literacy, STEM, art, motor-skill and dramatic-play experiences perfect for your preschool classroom:

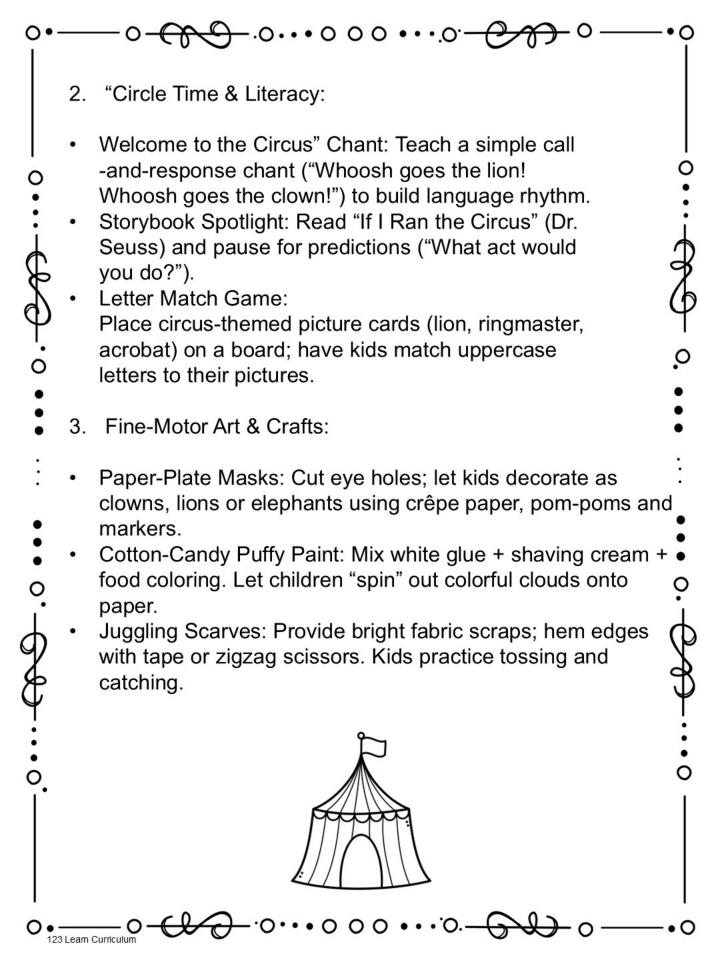
Environment & Dramatic Play:

and its significance in their lives.

 Big Top Tent: Hang a striped canopy or streamers overhead. Arrange small tables/chairs inside to mimic circus stalls.



- Ticket Booth: Cut box panels into a "ticket booth"; provide play money, stamps and stickers.
- Costumes & Props: Stock hats, vests, bow ties, animal masks, juggling scarves and face-paint stations.



4. Gross-Motor & Balance:

Tightrope Walk:
 Lay a tape "rope" on the floor. Encourage heel-to -toe walking, carrying a "balancing pole" (foam noodle).



- Animal Obstacle Course:
 - "Elephant trunk" (crawl-through tunnel), "lion leap" (hurdles), "clown clown-on-the-ball" (sit-and-spin on a yoga ball).
- Balloon Volley:
 Tie balloons to varied heights; kids use wands to keep them aloft, strengthening shoulder and core stability.

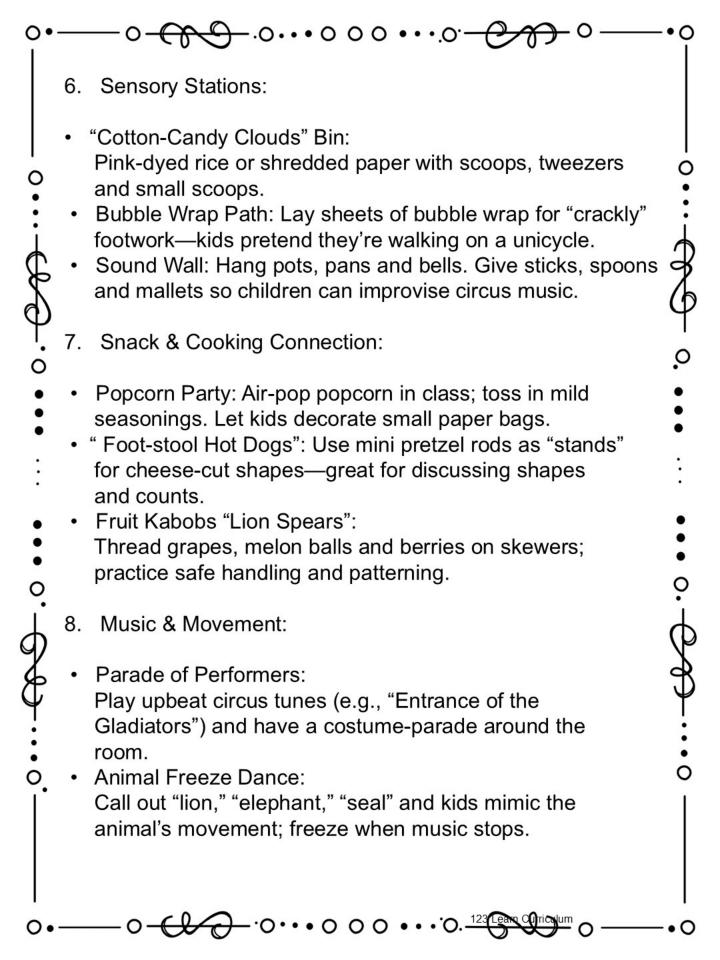
STEM & Math:

- Popcorn Kernels Counting:
 Fill sensory bin with popcorn kernels and small scoops.

 Practice 1:1 correspondence as children transfer kernels between bowls.
- Ring Toss Probability:
 Label rings 1–5 for point values; track successes on a classroom graph. "What score will you earn today?"
- Balance Scale "Tightrope Act":
 Use a simple balance scale and small animal counters. Ask,
 "How many monkeys equal one elephant?"



- Feed the Elephant:
 Use tongs to pick up pom-poms and "feed"
 them into cardboard elephant trunks great for
 fine motor and counting.
- Colorful Pasta Sensory Bin:
 Fill a bin with dyed pasta, mini animals, and scoops for tactile exploration.

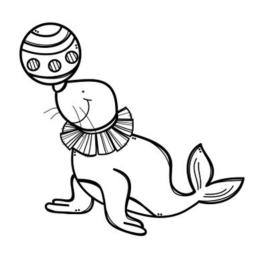


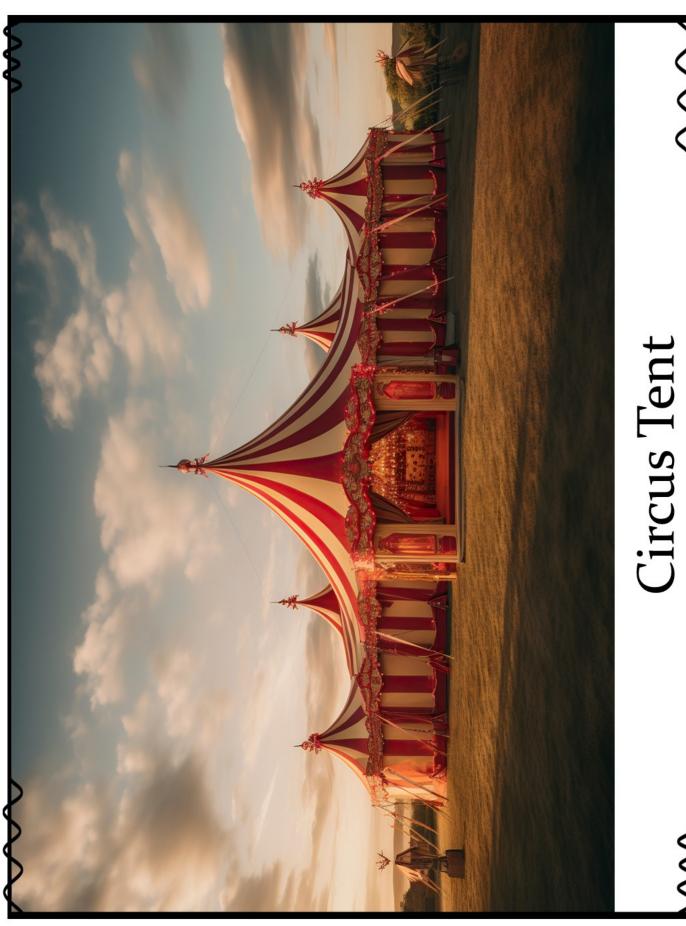
9. Family & Community Engagement:

- "Showtime" Showcase: Invite families for an afternoon mini-performance—kids demonstrate one act (tightrope walk, dance or juggling).
- Photo Booth: Set up a backdrop and props; send home snapshot keepsakes.

10. Gross Motor & Dramatic Play:

- Flaming Hoop Jump: Use pool noodles or hula hoops wrapped in red/orange streamers for a safe "flaming" jump challenge.
- DIY Stilts: Coffee can stilts let kids practice balance like circus performers.
- Talent Show Circle Time: Invite each child to share a "circus talent" - from roaring like a lion to juggling scarves.

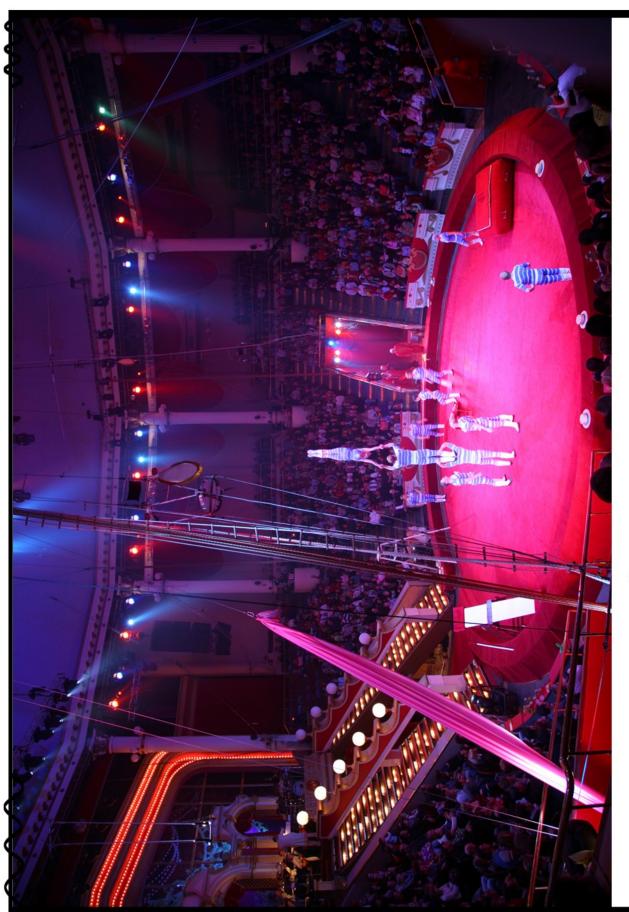




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Clown

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Inside a Circus Tent



Ariel Performer



Songs and Fingerplays

I'm a Little Clown



I'm a little clown,
Short and fat.
Here is my nose (Honk, Honk)
Here is my hat.
When I get stuck in a car,
I have to shout,
Open the door and let me out!

Let's All Go to the Circus Today

(Sung to: "Mary Has a Little Lamb")

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



Other verses:

See the lions, jump through the hoops. At the circus today. See the big seals spinning balls. At the circus today. See the little dogs jump and twirl. At the circus today.





To the Circus

(Sung to: "Are You Sleeping?")

Elephants stomping,
Lions roaring.
See the clowns,
Dancing around.
Jugglers are juggling,
Monkeys are jumping,
See the show, circus show!



I like Clowns



I like clowns,
Yes, I do!
With the big red nose,
And funny shoes!
There are balloons in his hand,
And he has colorful hair.
He throws on polka dot pants,
That he can wear.
I like the circus,
Yes, I do!

Songs and Fingerplays

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Funny Clown

(Sung to: "Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around")

Funny clown, funny clown,
Spin around.
Funny clown, funny clown
Jump up and down
Funny clown, funny clown,
Touch your toes.
Funny clown, funny clown
Honk your nose.



Funny Clowns

(Sung to: "Frere Jacques")



Funny clowns, funny clowns,
Jump around, jump around.
Sometimes making faces,
Sometimes running races.
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



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Circus Elephant

A circus elephant I went to see, (hold hands over eyes like binoculars). He had four legs and was bigger than me. (hold up 4 fingers, hold arms above head). He had 2 ears - big and round. (point to ears)

- And one long nose that makes a loud sound.
- (swing arm by nose and sound elephant sound)



Popcorn

Pop, Pop, Pop
(clap hands)
Put the corn in the pot!
Shake it, shake it.
(wiggly body).
Lift the lid, what do you get?
Pop, Pop, Popcorn!



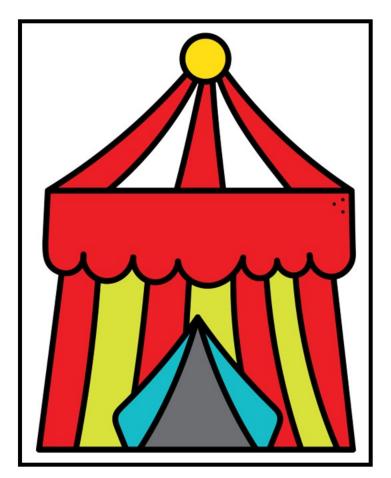
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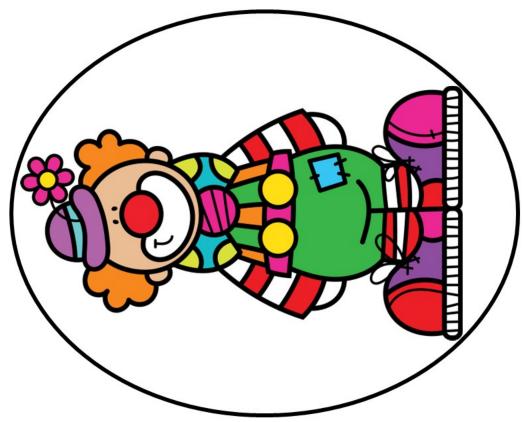
Under the big top, what will I see?
I see a clown smiling at me.
Behind the clown what do I see?
I see an elephant doing tricks for me.
Behind the elephant, what do I see?
I see a bear dancing for me.
Behind the bear what do I see?
I see a juggler jugging for me.
So much to do, and so much to see.
Under the big top just for me!

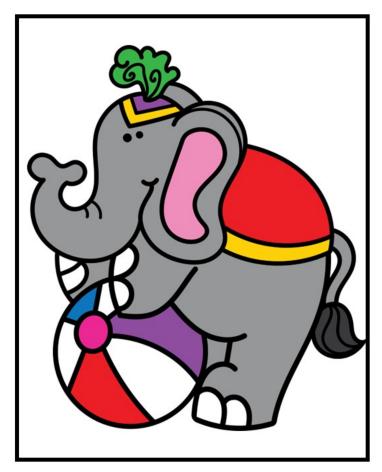


I like Clowns

I like clowns,
Yes, I do!
With the big red nose,
And funny shoes!
There are balloons in his hand,
And he has colorful hair.
He throws on polka dot pants,
That he can wear.
I like the circus,
Yes, I do!









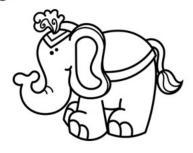




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Five Big Elephants

Five big elephants – oh what a sight. Swinging their trunks from left to right. Four are followers, and one is king. They all walk around in the circus ring.



Clown Song

(Sung to: "I'm a Little Teapot")



I'm a little clown short and fat.

Here is my tummy, here is my hat.

I can do a trick as you will see,

Just turn around and look at me.

At the end of song, Have children do a trick. ©

Songs and Fingerplays

Take Me Out To The Circus

(Sung to: "Take Me Out to the Ball Game")

Take me out to the circus. Take me out to the show. Buy me some peanuts and crackerjacks. I don't care if I ever get back. Cause its clap, clap, clap for the jugglers and laugh, laugh, laugh for the clowns For it's one, two, three rings of fun at the old big top.













Silly Clowns

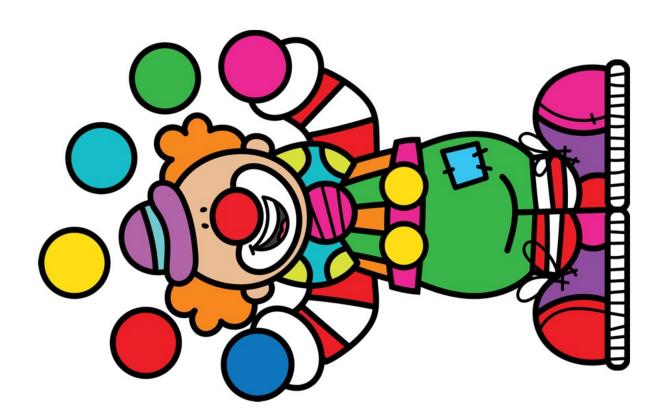
Five silly clowns, jumping all around, Jump so high, then touch the ground. One silly clown said, "I can't stay," So, he turned around and hopped away. Repeat with four, three, two, one.

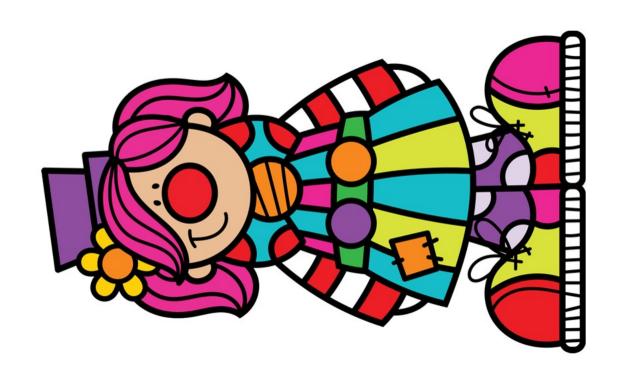
Silly Clowns

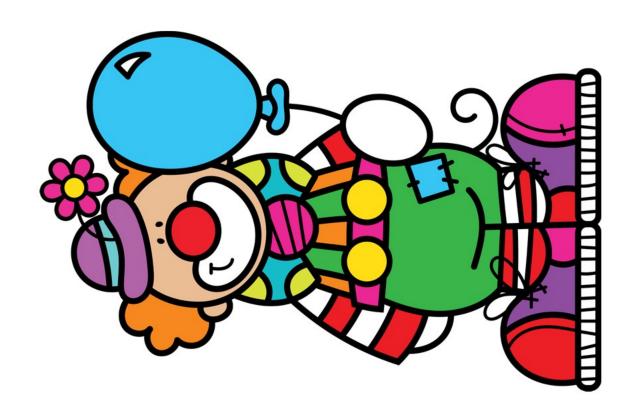
Use with the poem Silly Clowns.

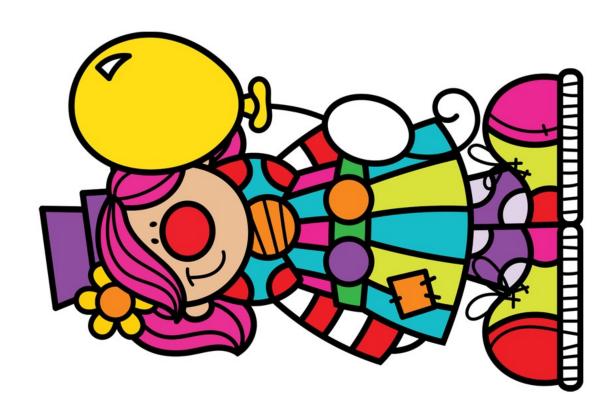
Print up on white card stock. Laminated and cut out. Place Velcro on the back of each piece. (Rough side). Place the 5 clowns on a flannel board, do poem and remove one clown as each one hops away.











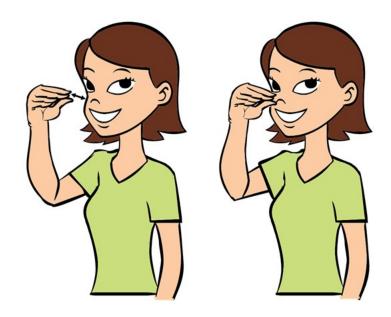
Mini Lesson Plan Directions

The following pages give you an idea on a preplanned lesson plan for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Use these lesson plans as a template but use a relaxed atmosphere when doing activities. The idea of this lesson plan is to give you some ideas if you want to do some activities during the summer.

Circus Infant Lesson Plan

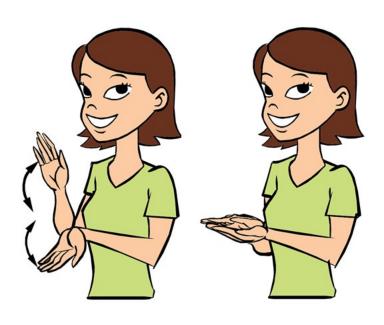
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Language Literacy Communica	-	Sign Language Learn the Sign for Clown	Read <u>Maisy's Circus</u> <u>Show</u> by Lucy Cousins	Sign Language Learn the Sign for Seal	Read <u>ABCs (Baby's</u> <u>First) board book</u> by Saviour Pirotta	"Big Top" Sound & Gesture Play
Fingerplays Songs	and	I'm a Little Clown See Song Sheet	Let's All Go to the Circus Today	To the Circus See Song Sheet	I Like Clowns See Song Sheet	Funny Clown See Song Sheet
			See Song Sheet			j
Physical Movemer		Tightrope Tummy Time	Elephant Stomp	Circus Tent Roll	Little Lion Crawl	Circus Picture Painting
						Place picture in large baggie, squirt in paint,
						close and tape to the floor. Let infant spread
						paint around in baggie. Never leave infant alone.

Clown



To sign *clown*, look like you are putting on a clown's nose. form your dominant With your dominant hand, bring all your fingers close together, but not quite touching, as if you were holding a big, red clown's nose. Then move your fingers toward your nose, up a few inches, then back down, twisting it back and forth.

Seal



To sign seal, clap both hands with your dominant hand facing downward and your non-dominant upward. Repeat the motion several times.

This sign is not to be confused with school, wherein the flat palms are also clapped together, but the fingers of one hand lie perpendicular to those of the other. With seal, the fingers align perfectly when clapping.

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Baby Sign Language @

https://www.babysignlanguage.com/

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Clown

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To view video for signing seal, click on the link below:

Seal



Infant The Circus Themes Activities

"Big Top" Sound and Gesture Play

Supplies Needed: Puppets or soft toys (elephant, lion, clown) and pair each with a specific sound or gesture.

For example:

Elephant: "Pawoo!" (trumpeting sound) + arm-as-trunk motion

Lion: "Raaah!" + wide arms and big roar

Clown: "Honk honk!" (with a squeaky toy or nose boop)

Why it works: Infants love repetition and exaggerated expressions. These pairings support sound imitation and simple motor mimicry, laying the groundwork for communication.

Tightrope Tummy Time

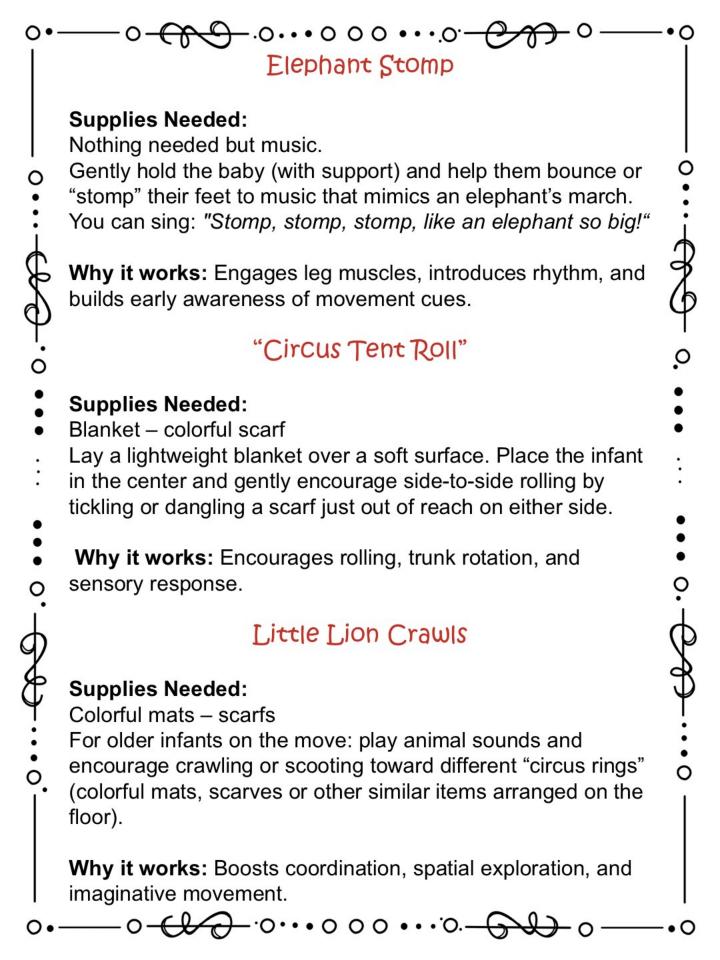
Supplies Needed:

Ribbon or tactile strip – scarfs – plush animals.

Place a soft ribbon or tactile strip across a tummy time mat and encourage the infant to reach or scoot toward objects (like textured scarves or plush animals) placed along the "tightrope."

Why it works: Builds neck and core strength while supporting tracking and coordination.







Circus Painting

Print up picture. Add to baggie. Squirt several colors of paint into the baggie. Zip lock the baggie closed getting out as much air as you can. Tape the baggie to the floor using masking or painter's tape. (Around all 4 sides of the baggie). Lay the infant on the floor near the baggie. A fun / colorful way to spend some tummy time. Take the infant's hand and show them that they can push their hand on the baggie and the paint will spread. Talk to the infant about the colors they are "painting" with.

A fun, clean way for the infants to create a beautiful piece of artwork.

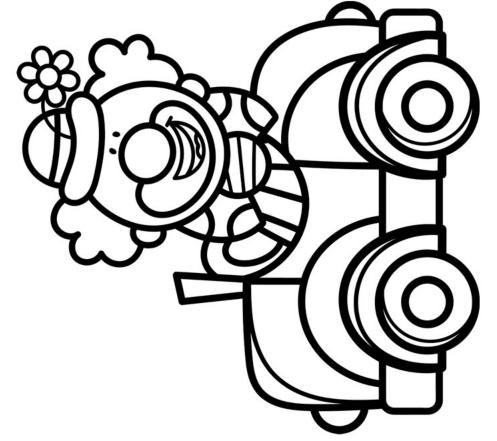
NEVER leave the infant alone on the floor with the baggie.

Once the infant is done with tummy time and painting, open

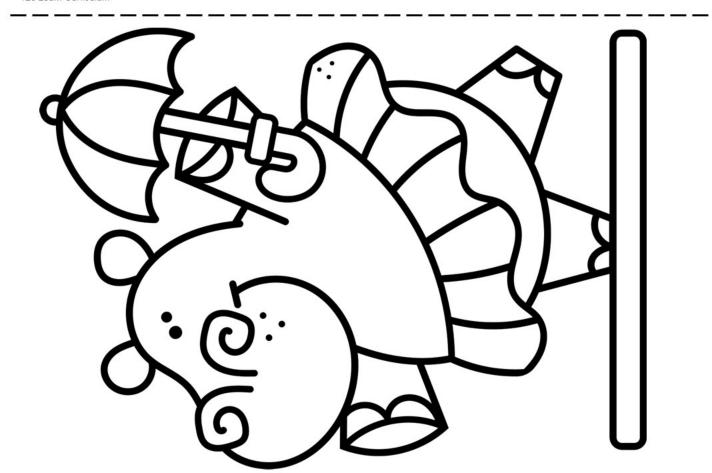
the baggie and pull out the piece of paper. Let the page dry.

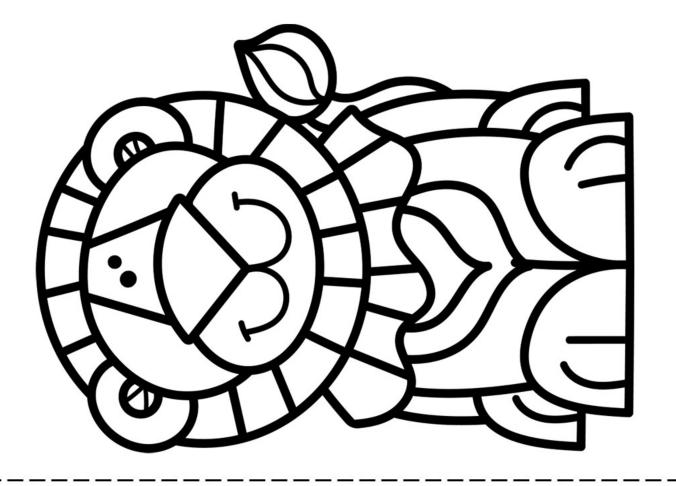
Label on the back with the child's name and date.

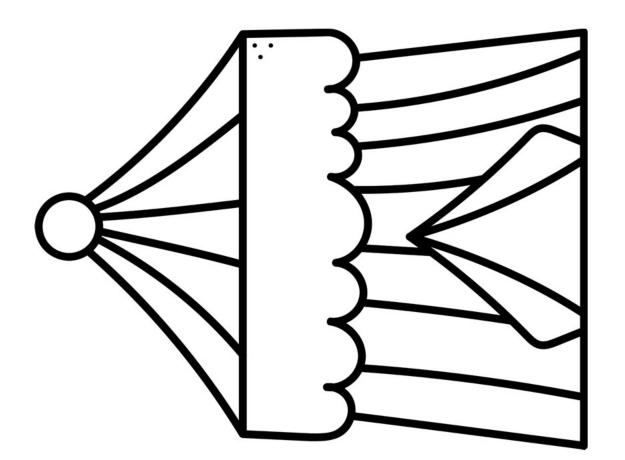




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Infant Toys



Circus Hand Puppets



Dancing Clown



Peek & Seek



Crawl Along Toy

Dancing clown and hand puppets are a fun toy for infants. Encourage infants to reach out for the puppets and dancing clown. Talk to them via the puppets and ask them what the clown is doing.

Circus Toddler Lesson Plan

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Language	Sign Language Learn the Sign for Clown	Review The Sign for Clown	Sign Language Learn the Sign for Seal	Review the Sign for Seal	Review the signs for Clown and Seal
Fingerplays and Songs	Circus Elephant See Song Sheet	Popcorn See Song Sheet	Under the Big Top See Song Sheet	5 Big Elephants See Song Sheet	Clown Song See Song Sheet
Literacy/Writing	Sticker Line Up	Read <u>At the Carnival!</u> By Hunter Reid	Sticker Letter Recognition	Read <u>Maisy's Circus</u> <u>Show</u> by Lucy Cousins	Circus Fine Motor Mats
Motor Small/Gross	Circus Paint Dauber	Flaming Hoop Jump	Circus Play-Doh Mats	Circus Movement Cards	Tight Rope Act
Sensory ↓ Science	Dancing Popcorn Experiment		Circus Slime		
Weekly Worksheets	Lacing CardsC is for CircusColor the Star Shapes	 Circus Sequencing Pictures that begin with the Letter C How Many Clowns 	 Circus Fun Cut and Glue Count the Circus Acts Red Clown Car 	 Star Paper Pasting Write the Word Clown - Color Color the Stars 	 Circus Fun – Color – Cut and Glue Learning the Number 3 Color Red

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Clown

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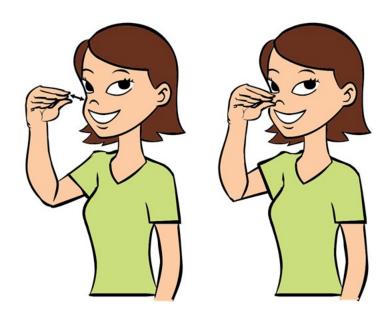
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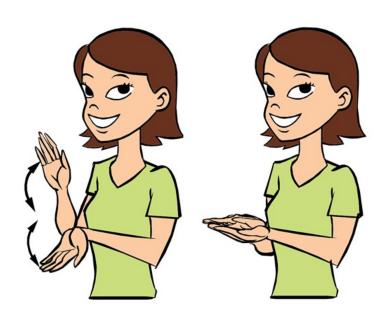
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Seal

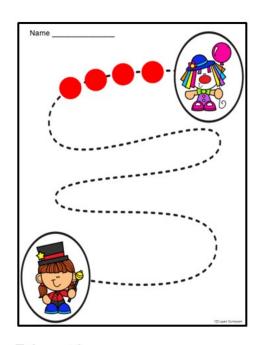


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Sticker Line Up



Supplies needed:

- White card stock
- Crayons
- **Stickers**



Directions:

- Print up sheets onto white card stock.
- Have toddlers color their picture, then peel stickers off their sticker sheets and place on the line on the page.

Sticker Samples from Amazon. Click on picture to purchase.



This activity can also be used for preschoolers if looking for an additional activity.



1" Stickers





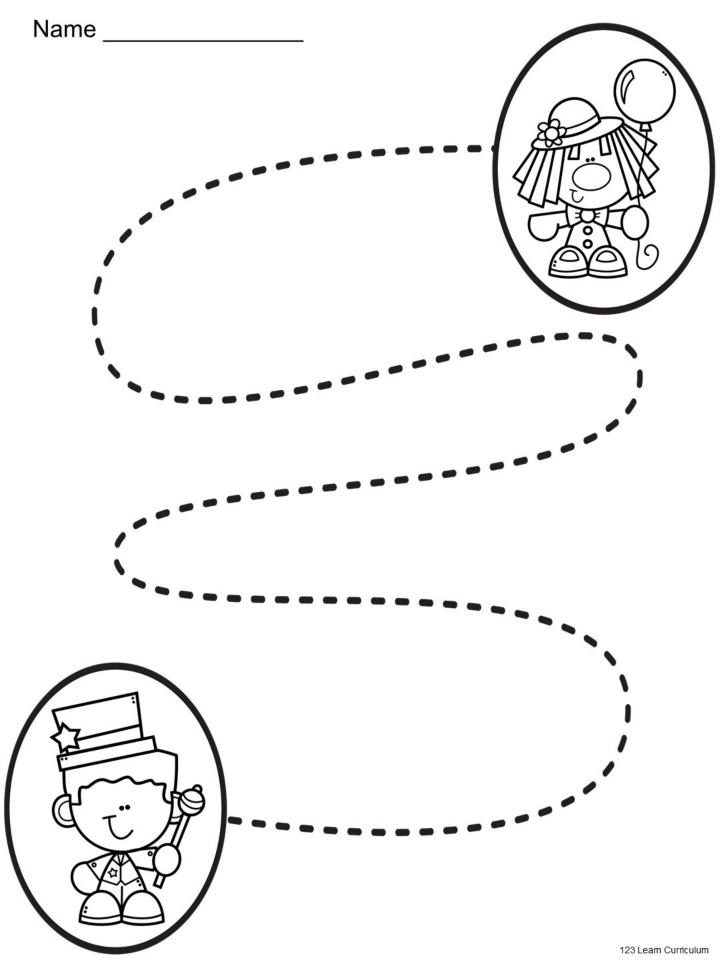
Benefits of Sticker Activities

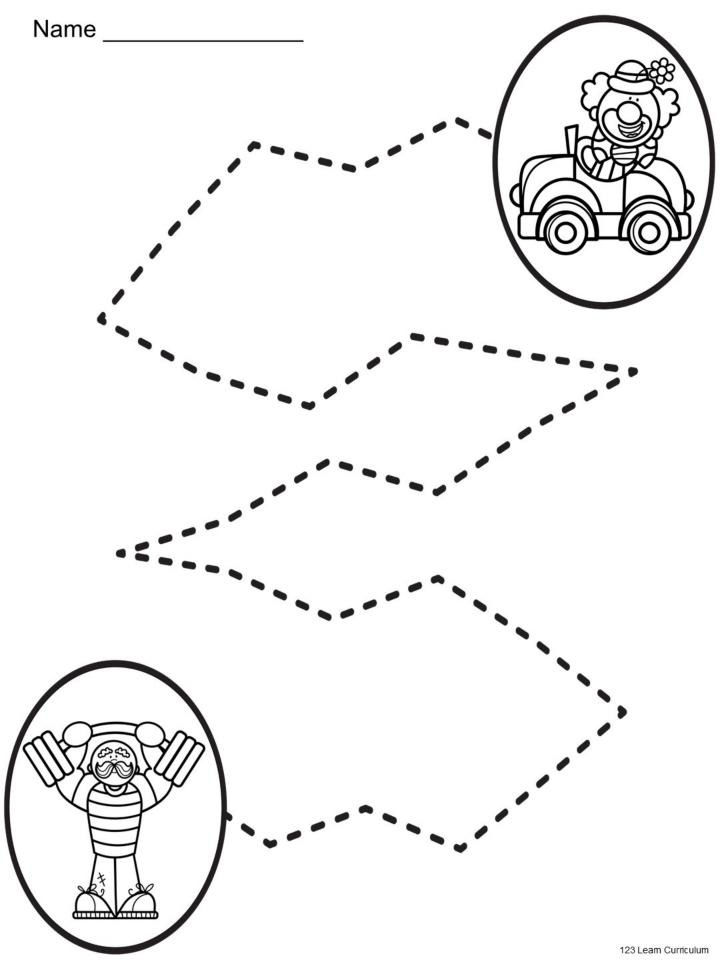
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- Fine-motor strength & dexterity. Peeling stickers off their backing demands a neat pincer grasp (thumb + index-finger tips) to lift just the edge—an essential precursor to skills like buttoning, using utensils, or picking up small objects.
- Bilateral coordination. One hand must hold or steady the sticker sheet while the other peels and positions the sticker. That coordinated two-hand teamwork carries over to tying shoes, ripping paper, and many daily tasks.
 - Hand—eye coordination & visual—motor integration.
 Finding just the right spot for a tiny sticker sharpens how eyes guide hands. Toddlers learn to visually scan, judge distances, and place stickers precisely—foundational for later drawing, writing, and sports skills.
 - Creative expression & planning. Choosing colors, arranging shapes, or creating little sticker "stories" encourages imaginative thinking. Deciding where to stick each piece fosters early design skills and narrative play.

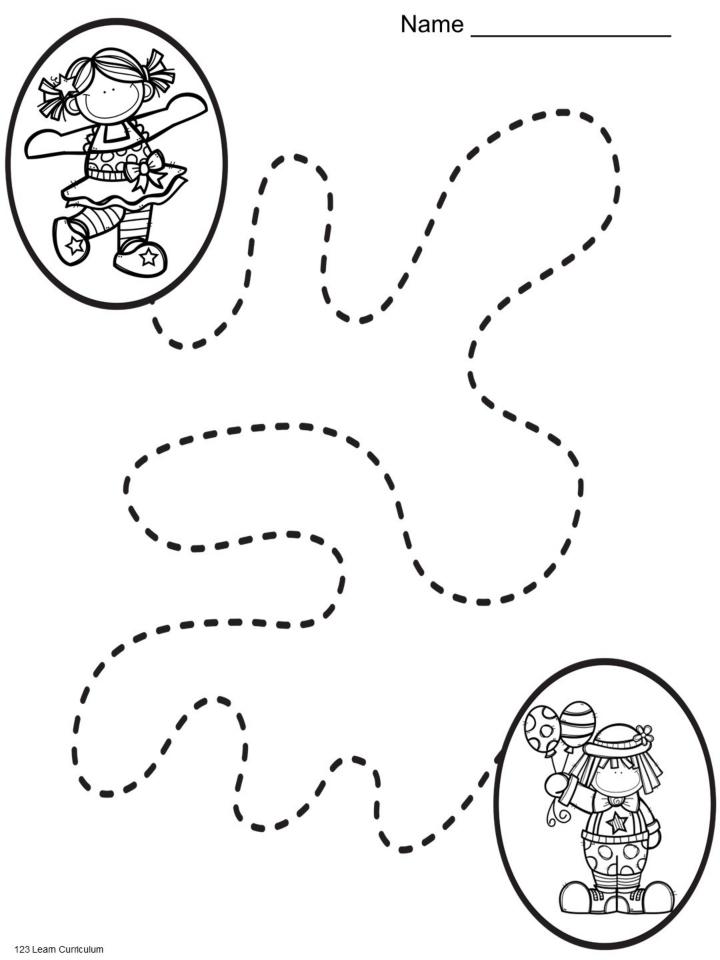
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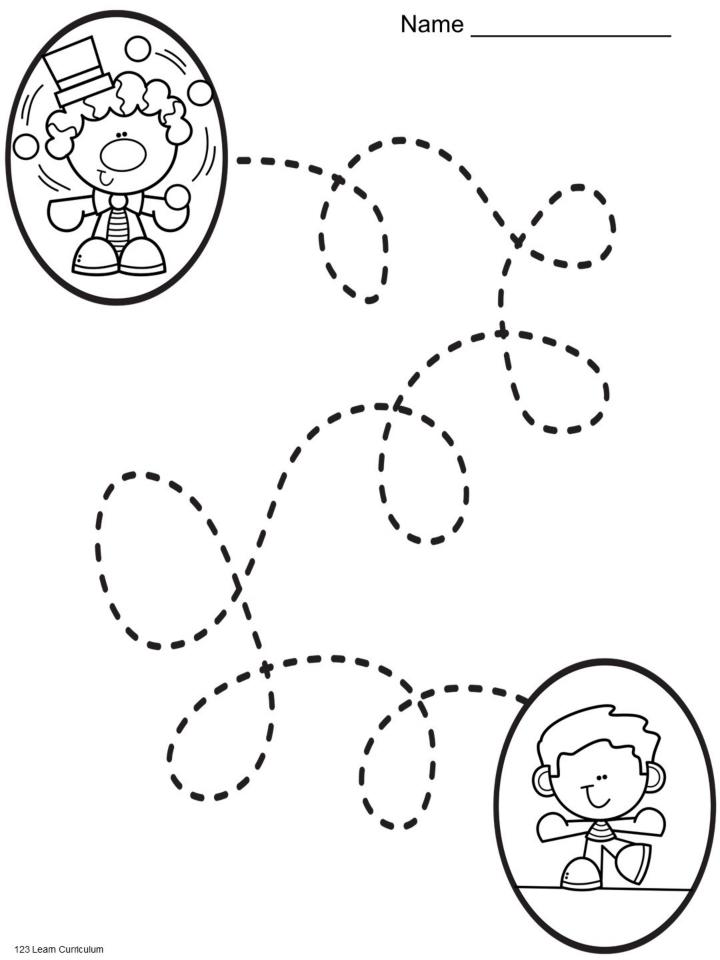
- Attention span & patience. Toddlers often focus longer when they're placing stickers than when they're just coloring or building blocks. That sustained, selfchosen engagement boosts emerging concentration and frustration tolerance.
- Spatial awareness & visual perception. Aligning stickers within borders or patterns helps youngsters grasp concepts like "inside," "besides," or "above." Recognizing shapes and planning placement builds an intuitive sense of space and balance.
- Sensory feedback & self-regulation. The tactile "pop" of peeling plus the bright visuals provide just-right sensory input. For many toddlers, this can be calming; for others, it's arousing in a productive, playful way.
- Independence & confidence. Completing a sticker collage—from start to finish—gives toddlers clear, visible proof of "I did that!" This sense of ownership and pride strengthens self-esteem and a can-do attitude.





Name _____





Sticker Letter Recognition

Materials:

- Assorted Color Stock
- Stickers (o match card stock)
- Black Marker
- Tape

Directions:

You will need assorted color card stock. Different colors for each letter of each child's name. Match the color card stock to the stickers you have. You will want to write one letter of each child's name on a piece of card stock and matching color sticker.

For the 1st letter of their name write a capital letter on a piece of red card stock and on the row of red stickers. (Sticking with the layout of the stickers).

2nd letter of the child's name will go on a piece of blue card stock and blue stickers and continue until all letters of the child's name is written on both card stock and stickers.

Tape the letters in order on the wall, eye level for child doing this activity.

Talk to them about the 1st letter, which is the 1st letter of their name.

Have them find the matching sticker, peel the sticker and place on the matching card stock.



1" Stickers

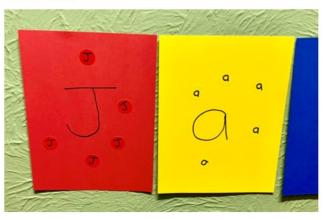
Sample





Sample shows letters written on 8 ½ x 11 card stock but you can use ½ sheets and include more stickers if desired.

This would also be a good activity for preschoolers if you are looking for an additional activity.



Toddler Writing Activity Fine Motor Mats

Materials:

- Fine Motor Mats
- White Card Stock
- · Laminating Sheets
- Dry Eraser Markers / or
- Pom Poms / Buttons

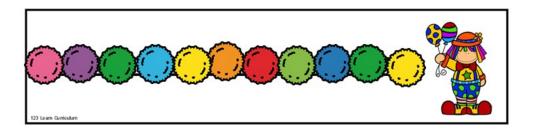


Directions:

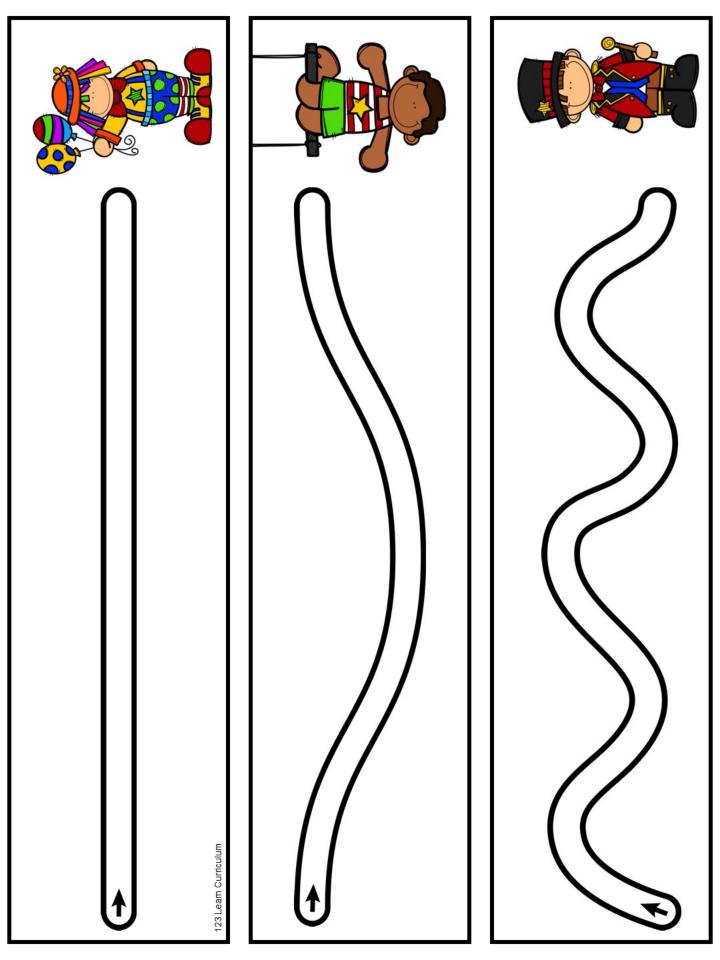
Print up the fine motor mats. Laminate and trim. Have toddler sit at the table and using a dry eraser marker have them trace inside the lines.

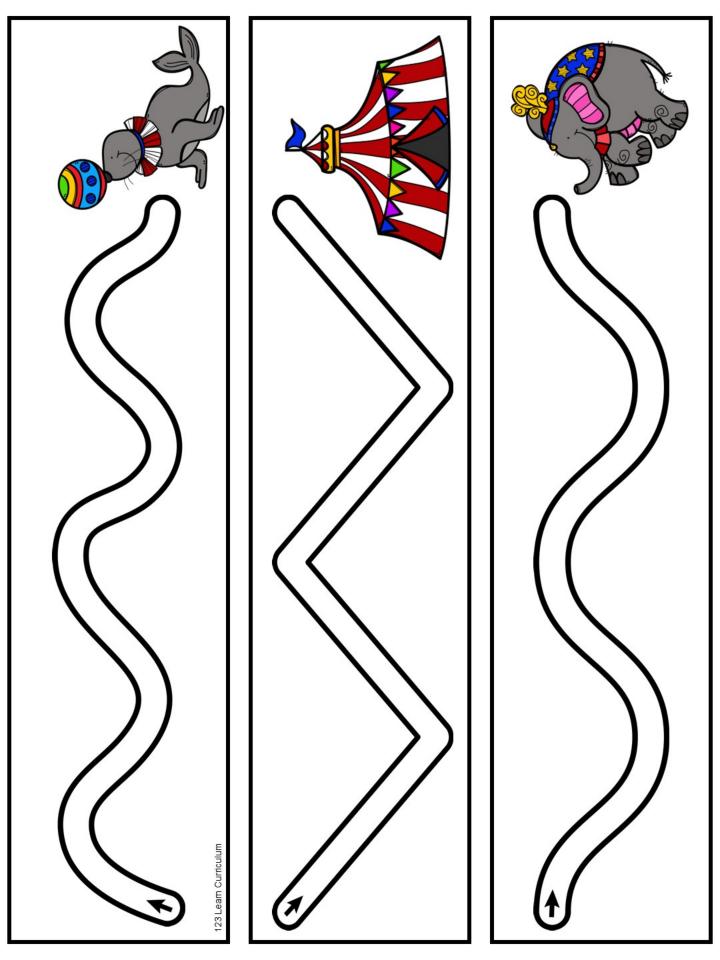
Additional Ideas:

Place pom poms or buttons into a bowl and have toddlers take the pom poms and lay on the lines.









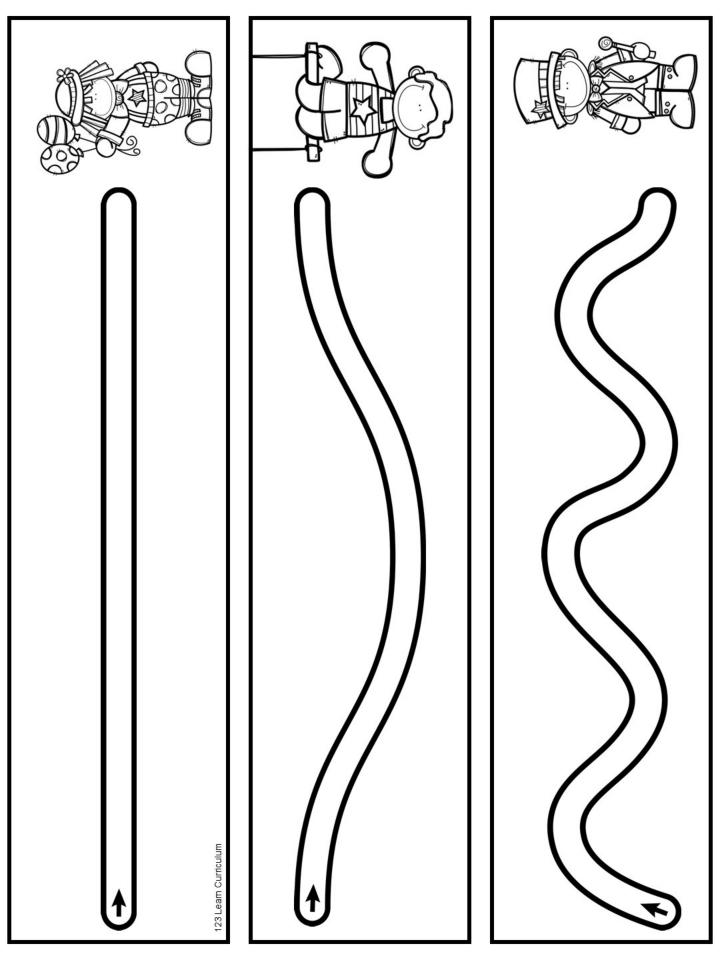
B & W Sheets

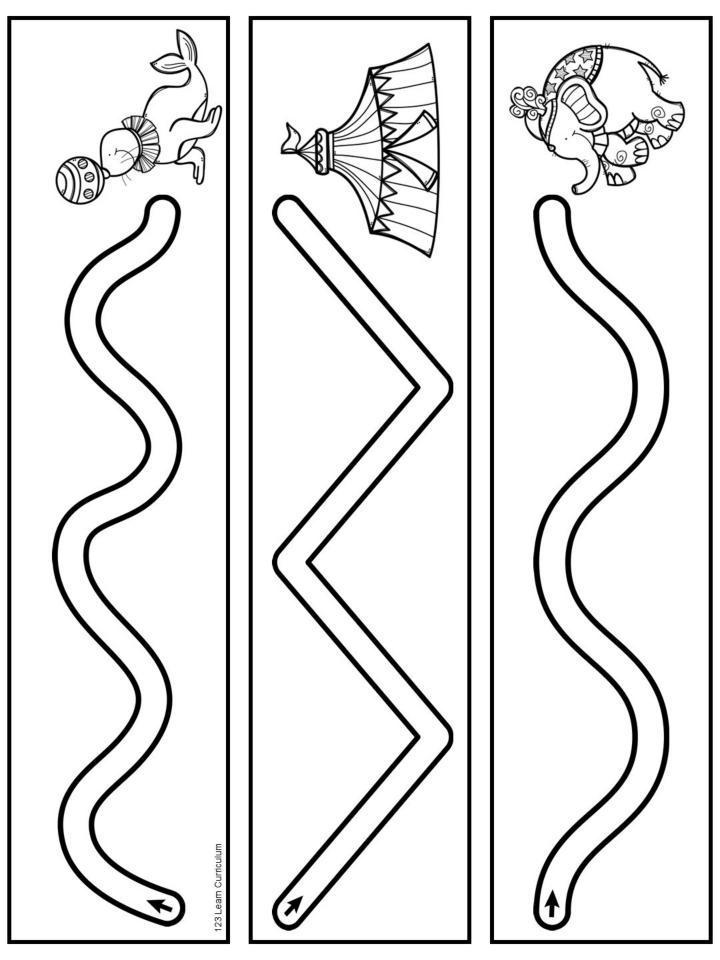
Print up on regular copy paper. Fun for little ones to scribble on. A child's 1st form of writing.

Scribbling is a vital part of a toddler's development and offers a wealth of benefits:

- **1.Fine Motor Skills**: Scribbling helps toddlers develop the muscles in their hands and fingers, preparing them for writing later on.
- **2.Hand-Eye Coordination**: It requires them to control their movements and coordinate what they see with how they move their hands.
- **3.Creativity and Imagination**: Scribbling is an early form of self-expression. It allows toddlers to convey their thoughts, feelings, and ideas.
- **4.Cognitive Development**: It introduces them to cause and effect. For instance, when they press down harder, the mark on the paper changes.
- **5.Emotional Expression**: It's a way for toddlers to process emotions and relieve stress.
- 6.Language Skills: Describing their scribbles can help develop their vocabulary and narrative skills. Scribbling isn't just random marks—it's a significant step in

your child's growth!





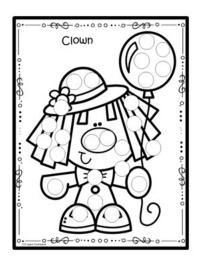


Circus Paint Daubers

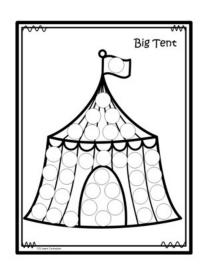
Materials:

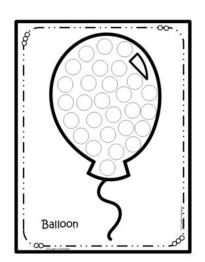
- White card stock
- Dot a Dot Paint

Directions:



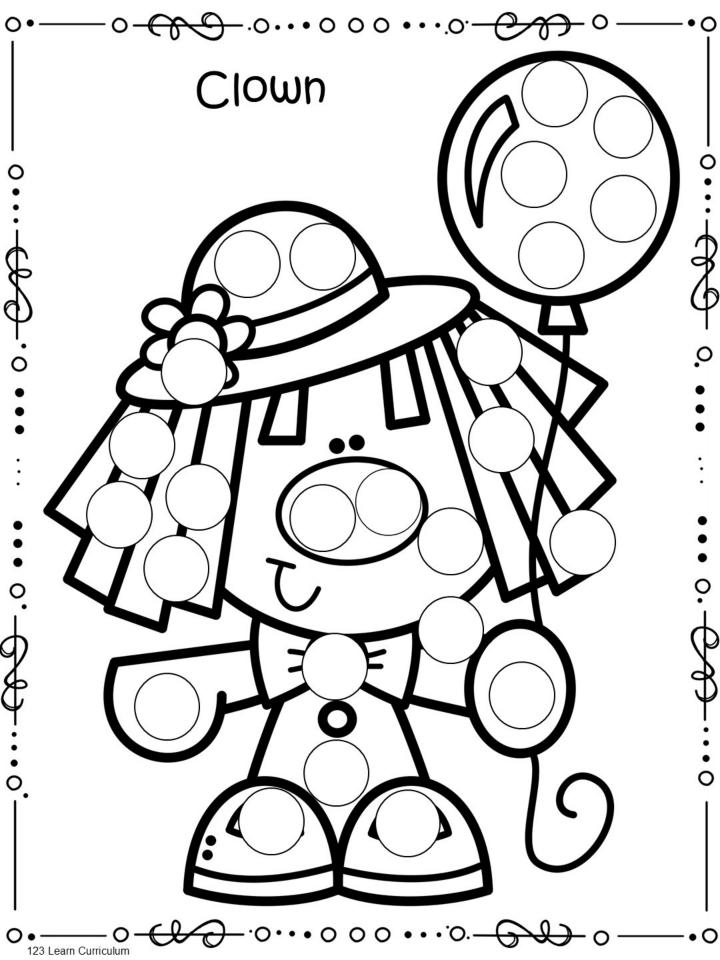
- 1. Print up the circus templates onto white card stock.
- Place in the art area with paint daubers.
- 3. During free time children can paint.

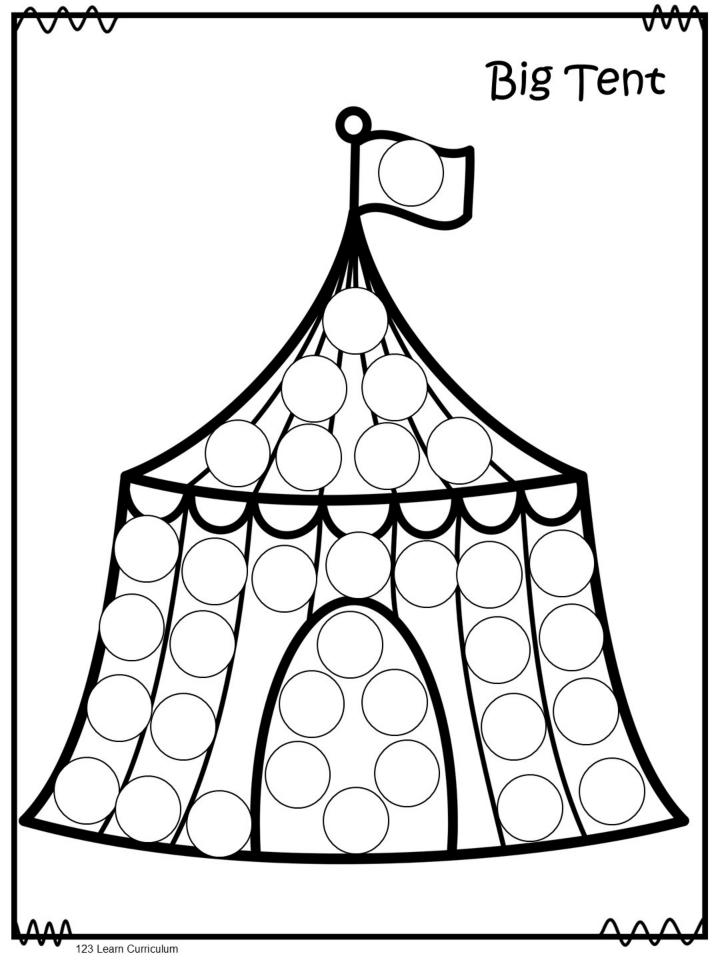


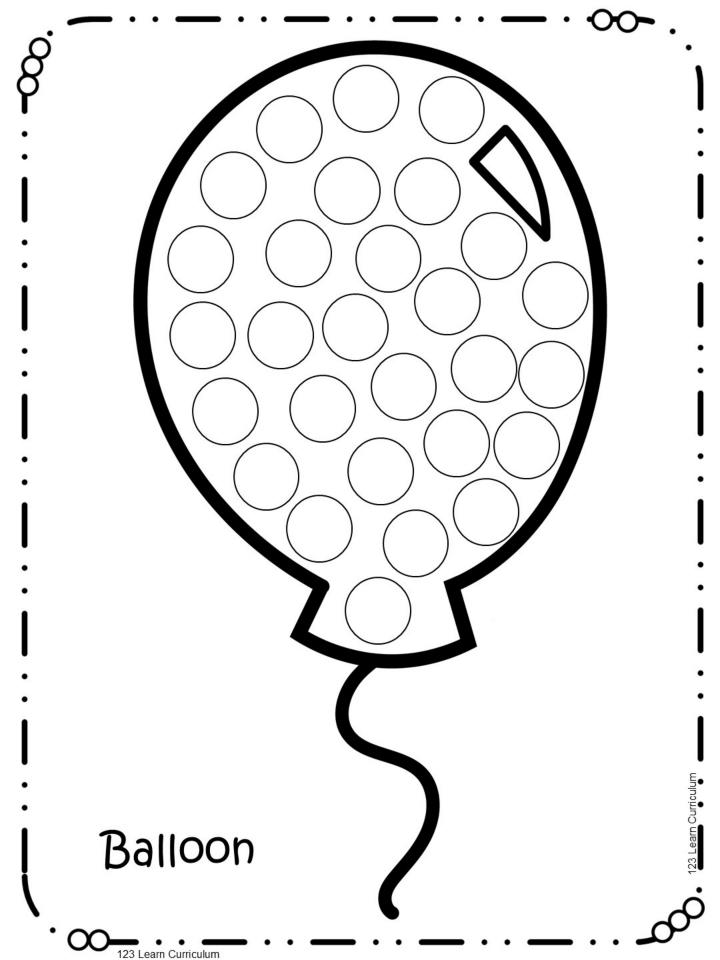


Dauber available on Amazon. Click on picture to purchase.









Flaming Hoop Jump

How to Play:

Materials Needed:

Orange – Red – Yellow Streamers Hulu hoop Scotch tape

Setup:

Ahead of time attach the streamers to hula hoop using tape. You can make streamers about 2-3 feet long.

Directions:

Have children take turns jumping though the hula hoops, to mimic circus hoops. Children can jump through them like brave performers. Have children use their imagination and talk to them what their circus act is.

Encourage jumping with both feet or crawling through to adapt for various abilities.



Circus Playdoh Mats

Materials needed:

- White card stock
- Laminating sheets
- · Assorted colors of playdough

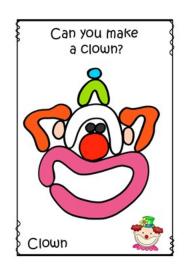
Directions:

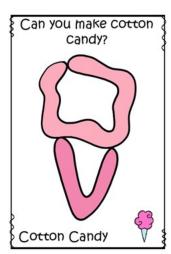
Print up, laminate and trim.



Sit at the table with children and Play-Doh mats. Talk to them about the mat they pick to use and have child read the card. Let them know what they need to do for each Play-Doh mat. Show children how to roll the Play-Doh to make pieces for a balloon, clown, cotton candy, etc. to place on the pictures of the cards.

Children can also take the Play-Doh and press onto the pictures to fill in the space. Kids will have fun working their fingers squishing and pulling Play-Doh.





Circus Play-Doh Mats

Directions:

Print up, laminate and trim.

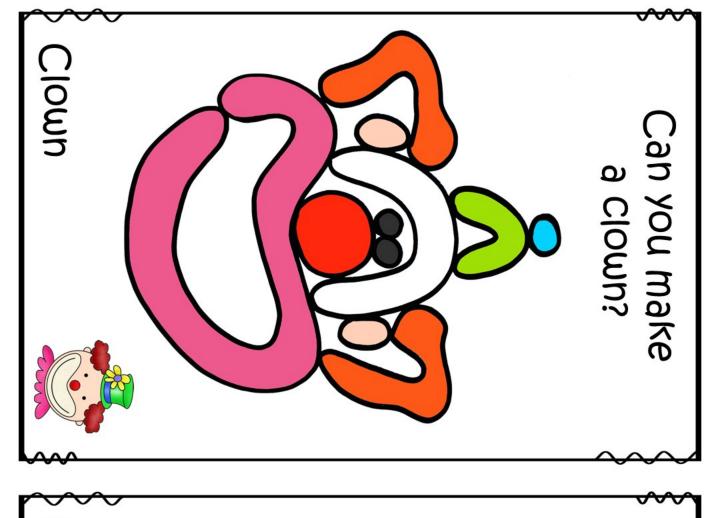
Sit at the table with children and Play-Doh mats. Talk to them about the mat they pick to use and have child read the card. Let them know what they need to do for each Play-Doh mat. Show children how to roll the Play-Doh to make pieces for a balloon, clown, cotton candy, etc. to place on the pictures of the cards.

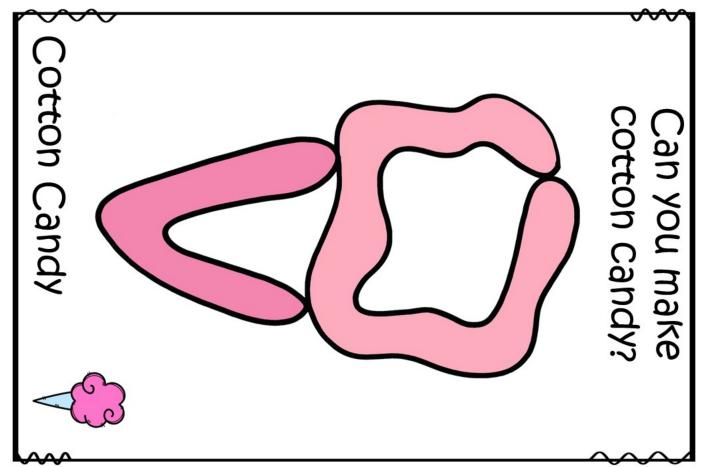
Children can also take the Play-Doh and press onto the pictures to fill in the space. Kids will have fun working their fingers squishing and pulling Play-Doh.

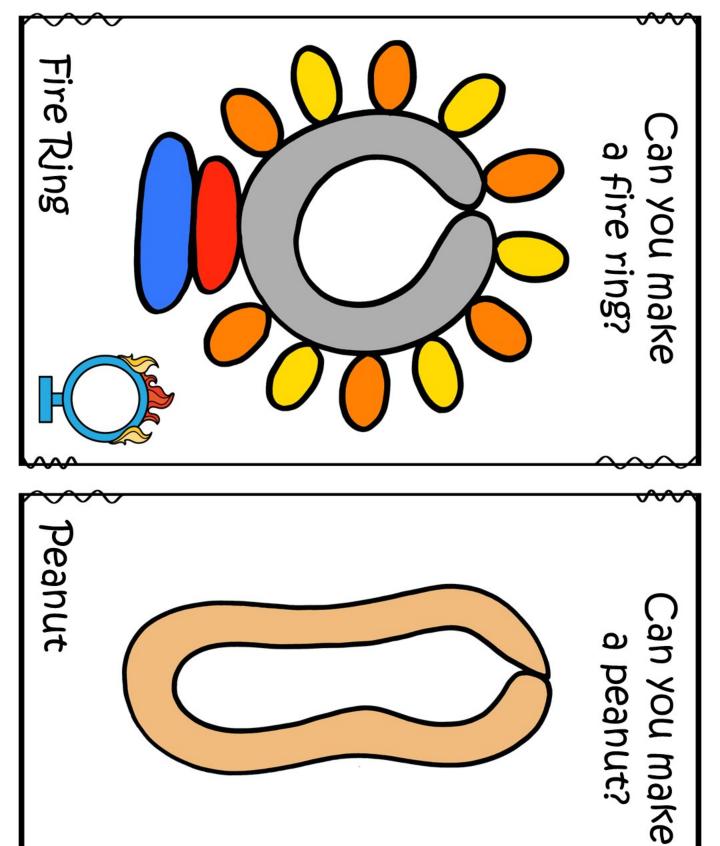
Can you make a balloon?

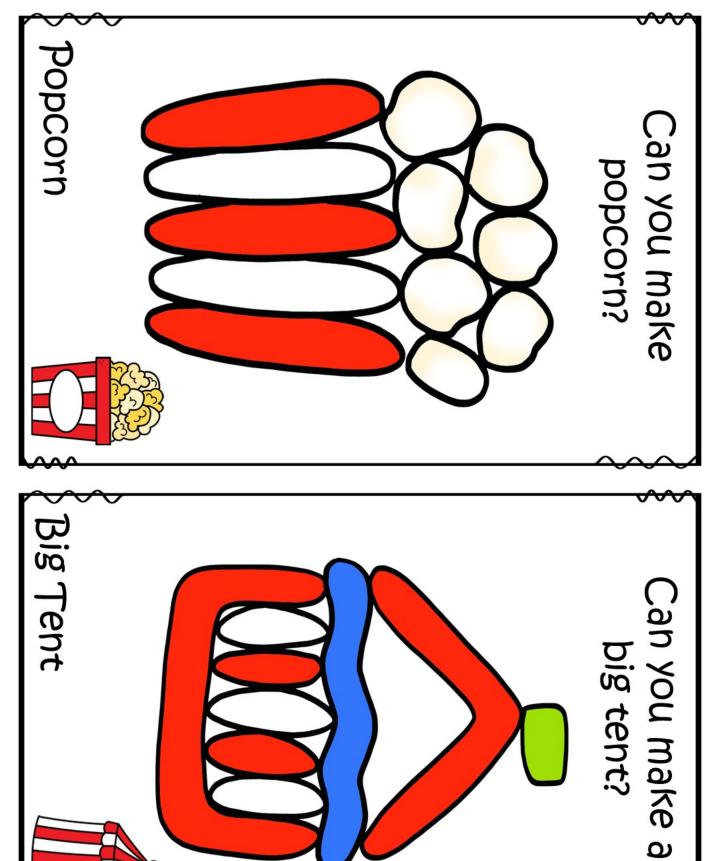


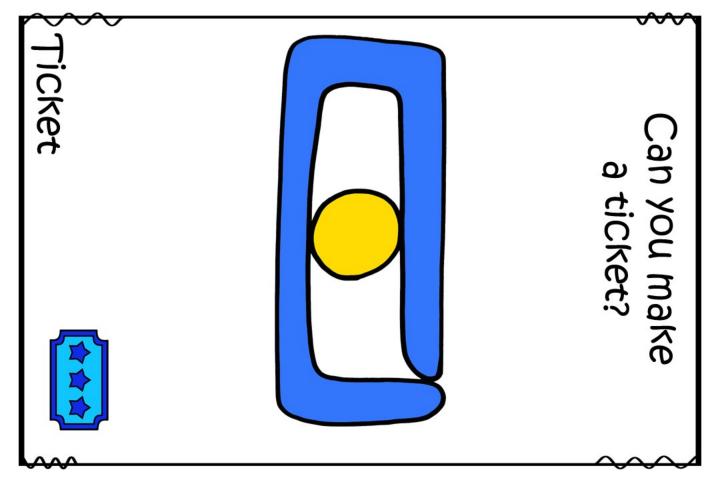
P Balloon











Circus Movement Cards

Materials:

- Circus Movement Cards
- White card stock
- Laminating sheets
- Scissors

Directions:

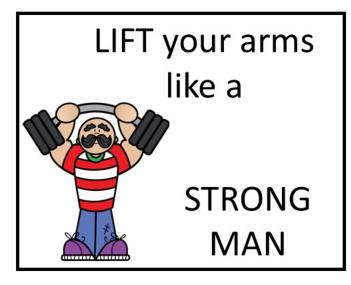
Print up circus movement cards onto white card stock. Laminate and trim.

Have children gather around. Let one of the children pick a card. Read it, and everyone does what's on the card.

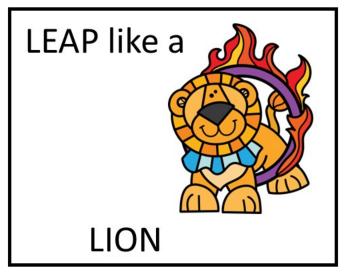
Let every toddler take turns picking a card and everyone doing the activities. Do activity until children want to move on to another activity.

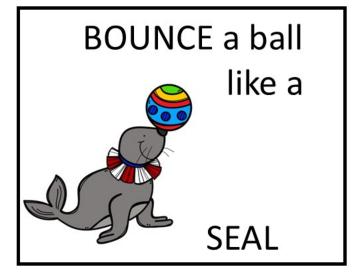


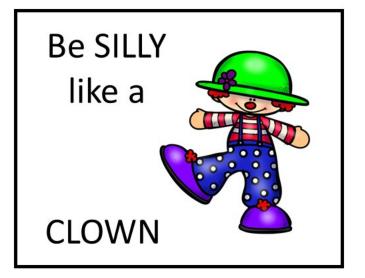
Circus Movement Cards





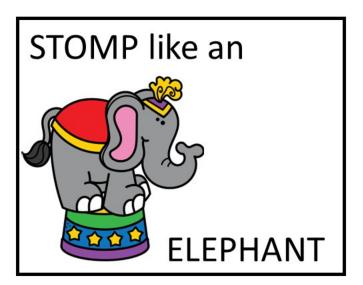




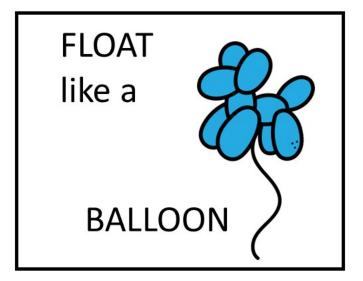


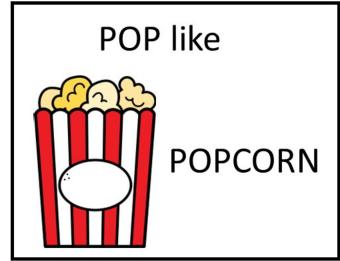


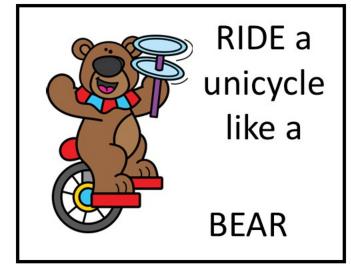
Circus Movement Cards



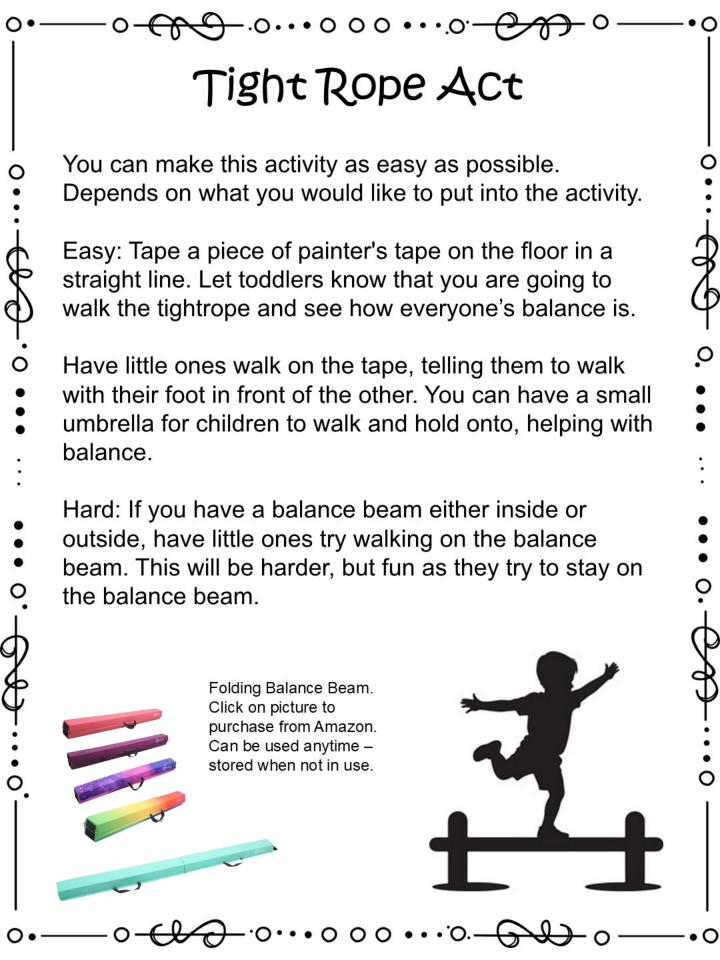












Basic Wooden Balance Beam (Indoor or Outdoor)

Materials:

- 1 wooden beam (4x4 or 2x4, about 6–8 feet long)
- 2–3 short 2x4s for legs (about 12" each)
- Screws and a drill
- Sandpaper (or a sander)
- Optional: non-slip grip tape or carpet strip for the top

Steps:

- Sand the beam thoroughly to remove splinters especially important for little bare feet!
- Attach the legs: Screw the short 2x4s perpendicular to the beam at each end and one in the middle for stability.
- Add grip: For extra safety, apply grip tape or a strip of carpet to the top.
- **4. Paint or seal** (optional): Use non-toxic paint or sealant if it'll be used outdoors.
- Want something even simpler? A few pool noodles taped to the floor, or a line of painter's tape can create a low-risk balance path for toddlers.

Circus Preschool Lesson Plan

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Language	Sign Language Learn the Sign for Clown	Review The Sign for Clown	Sign Language Learn the Sign for Seal	Review the Sign for Seal	Review the signs for Clown and Seal
Fingerplays and Songs	Circus Elephant See Song Sheet	Popcorn See Song Sheet	Under the Big Top See Song Sheet	Take Me Out to the Circus See Song Sheet	Silly Clowns See Song Sheet
Literacy/Writing	Feed the Popcorn the Alphabet	Read If You Ever Want to Bring a Circus to the Library, Don't! by Elise Parsley	Clown Prewriting Lines	Read <u>Harold's Circus</u> by Crockett Johnson	Cotton Candy Letter Writing Sensory Bin Circus Vocabulary Words
Motor Small/Gross	Circus Q-Tip Painting	Match The Circus Shapes	Flaming Hoop Jump	Circus Play-Doh Mats	Circus Scissor Skills
Sensory ↓ Science	Dancing Popcorn Experiment		Circus Slime		
Weekly Worksheets	Lacing CardsC is for CircusColor the Star Shapes	 Circus Sequencing Pictures that begin with the Letter C How Many Clowns 	 Circus Fun Cut and Glue Count the Circus Acts Red Clown Car 	 Star Paper Pasting Write the Word Clown - Color Color the Stars 	 Circus Fun – Color – Cut and Glue Learning the Number 3 Color Red

123 Leam Curricului

Clown sign language poster used with permission from Baby Sign Language.

To purchase any sign language materials, please visit

Baby Sign Language @

https://www.babysignlanguage.com/

To view video for signing clown, click on the link below:

Clown

Seal sign language poster used with permission from Baby Sign Language.

To purchase any sign language materials, please visit

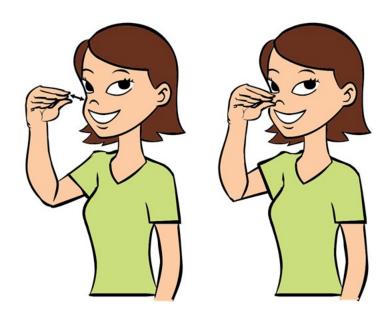
Baby Sign Language @

https://www.babysignlanguage.com/

To view video for signing seal, click on the link below:

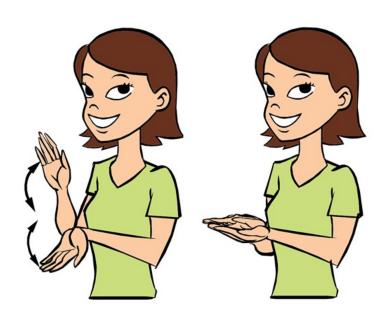
Seal

Clown



To sign *clown*, look like you are putting on a clown's nose. form your dominant With your dominant hand, bring all your fingers close together, but not quite touching, as if you were holding a big, red clown's nose. Then move your fingers toward your nose, up a few inches, then back down, twisting it back and forth.

Seal

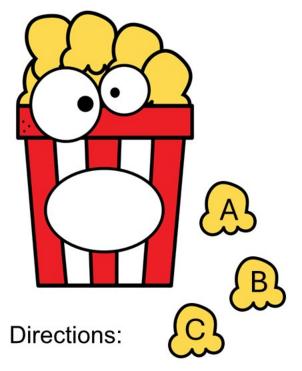


To sign seal, clap both hands with your dominant hand facing downward and your non-dominant upward. Repeat the motion several times.

This sign is not to be confused with school, wherein the flat palms are also clapped together, but the fingers of one hand lie perpendicular to those of the other. With seal, the fingers align perfectly when clapping.



Feed the Popcorn The Alphabet



Supplies needed:

- White card stock
- Laminating Sheets
- Small paper bag or cardboard box
- Scissors
- Glue or double-sided tape
- · 2 baskets (optional)
- Print up sheets onto white card stock.
- Laminate.
- Trim the popcorn and cut out the mouth (oval) and the popcorn letter pieces.
- Glue or tape the popcorn on a paper bag or a cardboard box (small tissue box).

Have preschoolers sit at the table with the popcorn/bag, and the alphabet in baskets. Uppercase in one basket and lowercase in the other baskets.

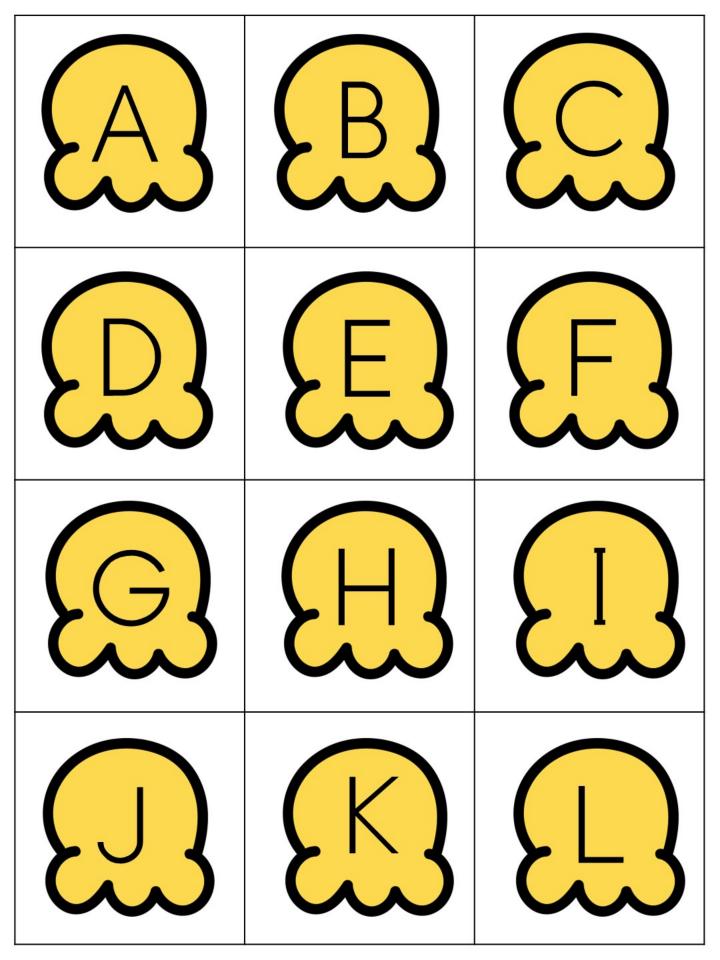
When trimming popcorn pieces, you can trim as squares, or as popcorn pieces.

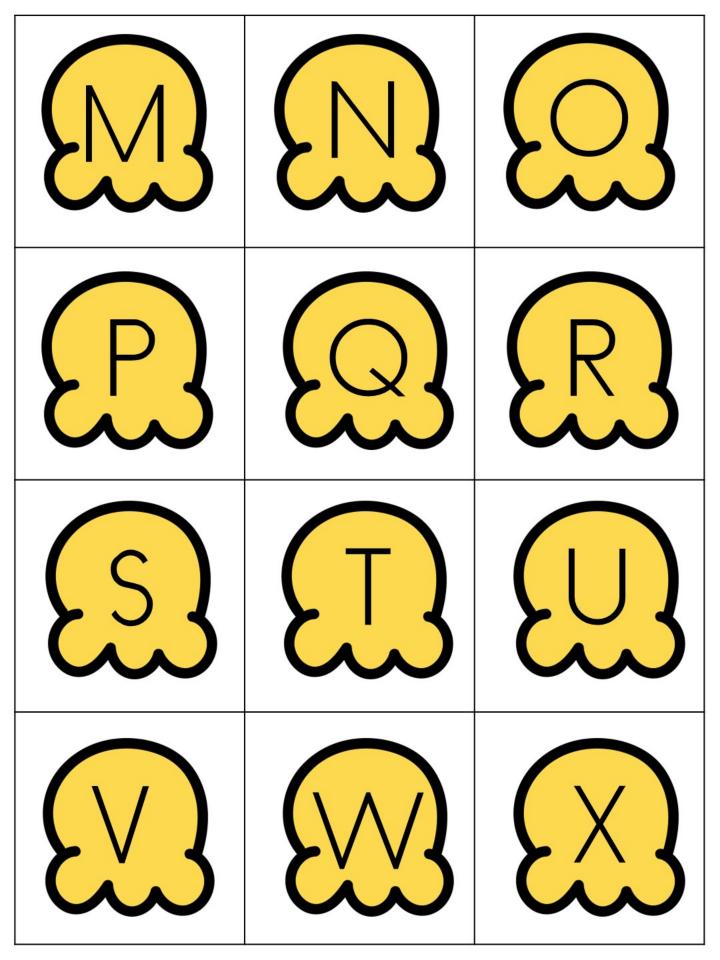
Have preschoolers sit at the table with the popcorn/bag, and the alphabet in baskets. Uppercase in one basket and lowercase in the other baskets.

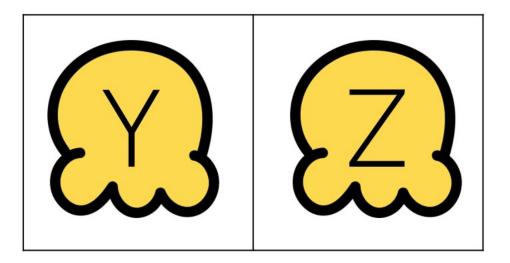
Have preschoolers take a letter out of the uppercase basket and locate the matching lowercase letter in the other basket. Have preschooler tell you what the letter is and ask them if they know any words that start with the letter.

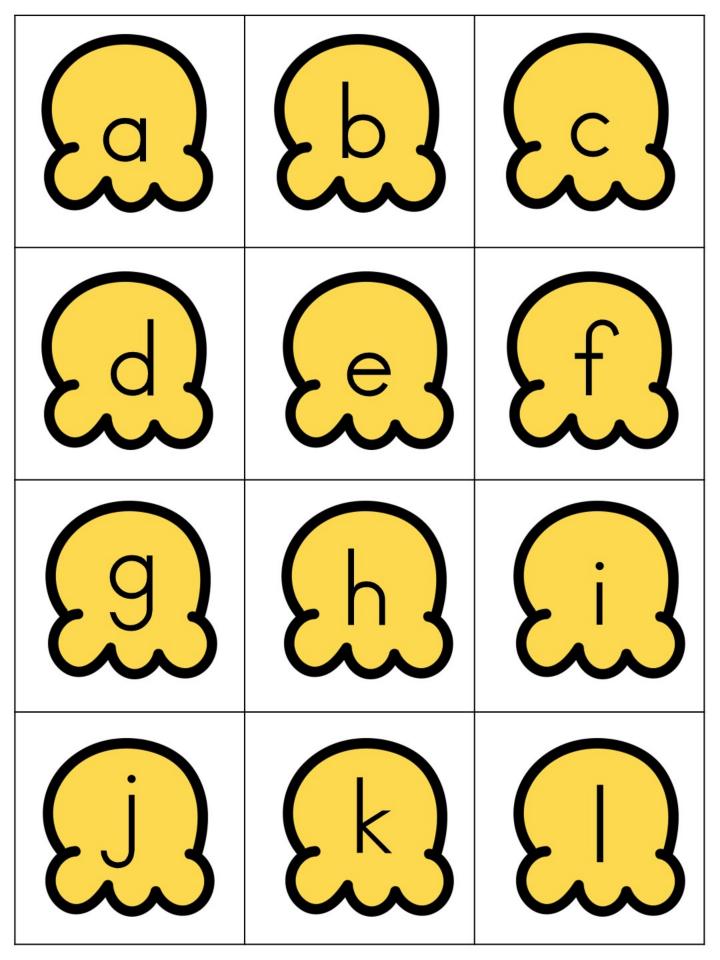
Place the 2 popcorn letters in the mouth of the popcorn box.

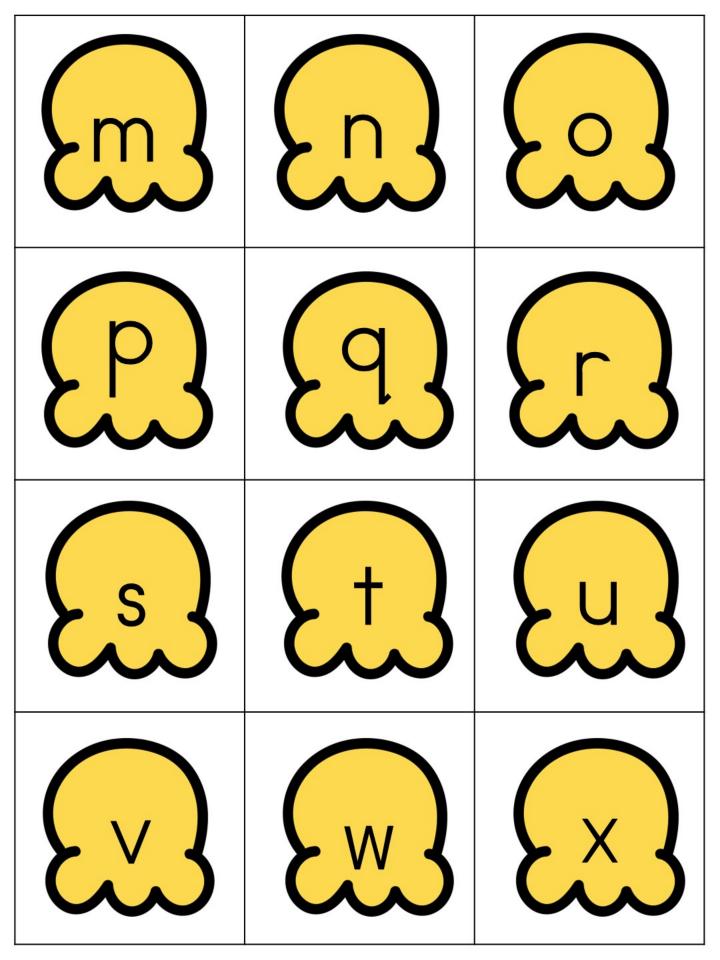


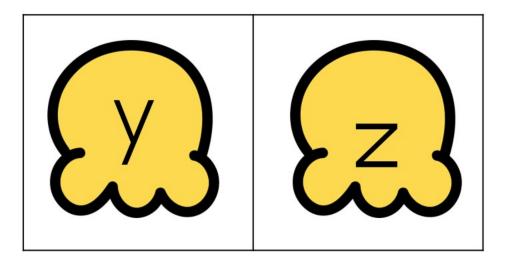




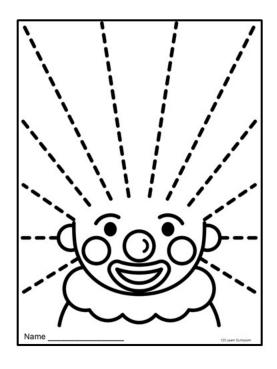








Clown Prewriting Lines



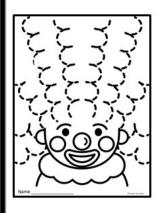
Supplies needed:

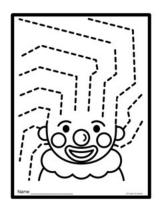
Copy paper Crayons or markers

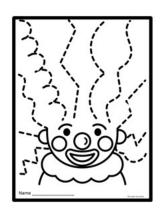


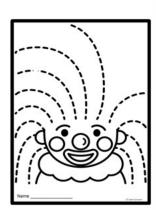
Directions:

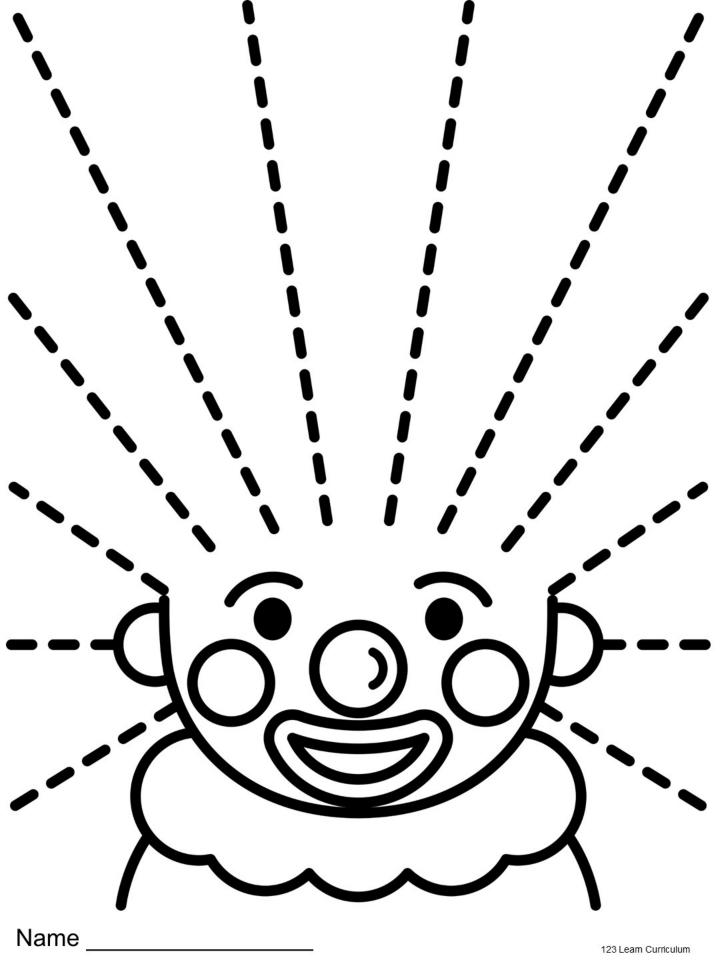
- Print up and place in writing center.
- Have children trace the lines of the clown's hair using a marker. (A marker will give a more defined line).
- · Have children color with crayons.

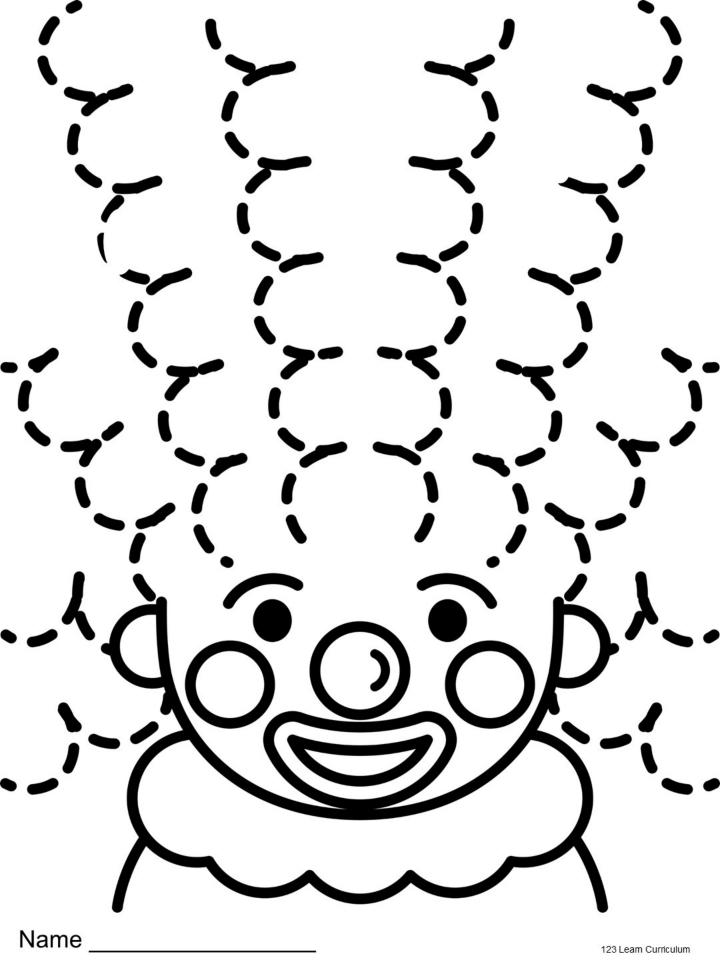


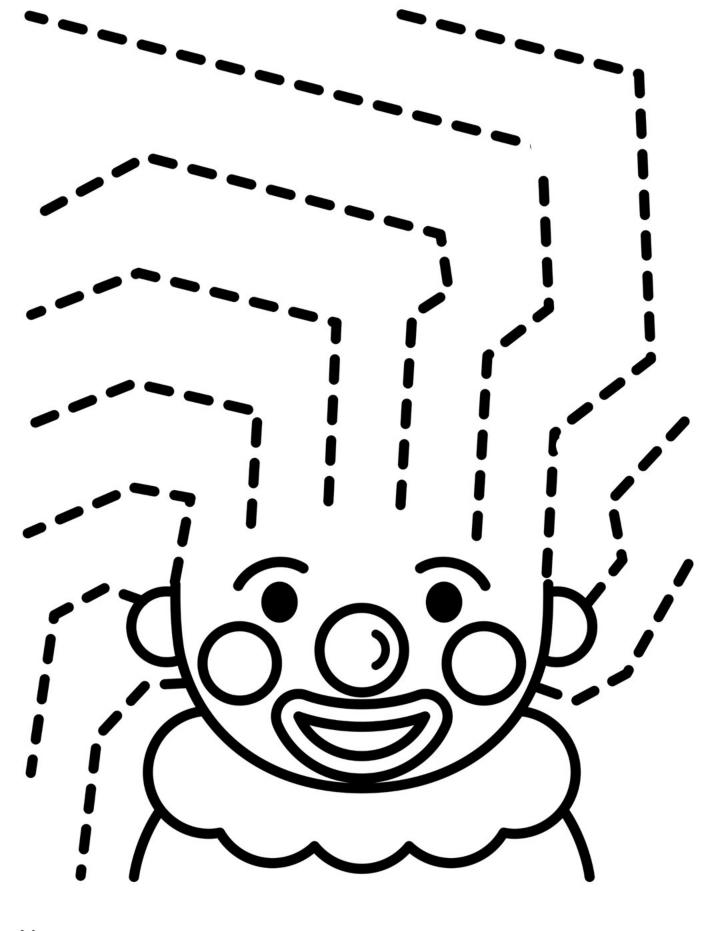


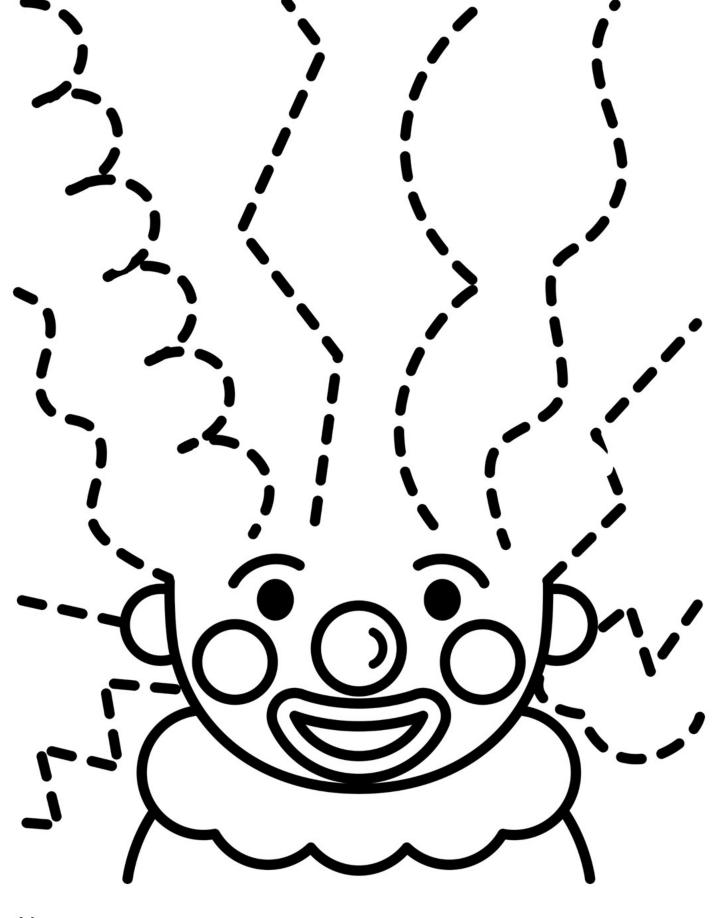




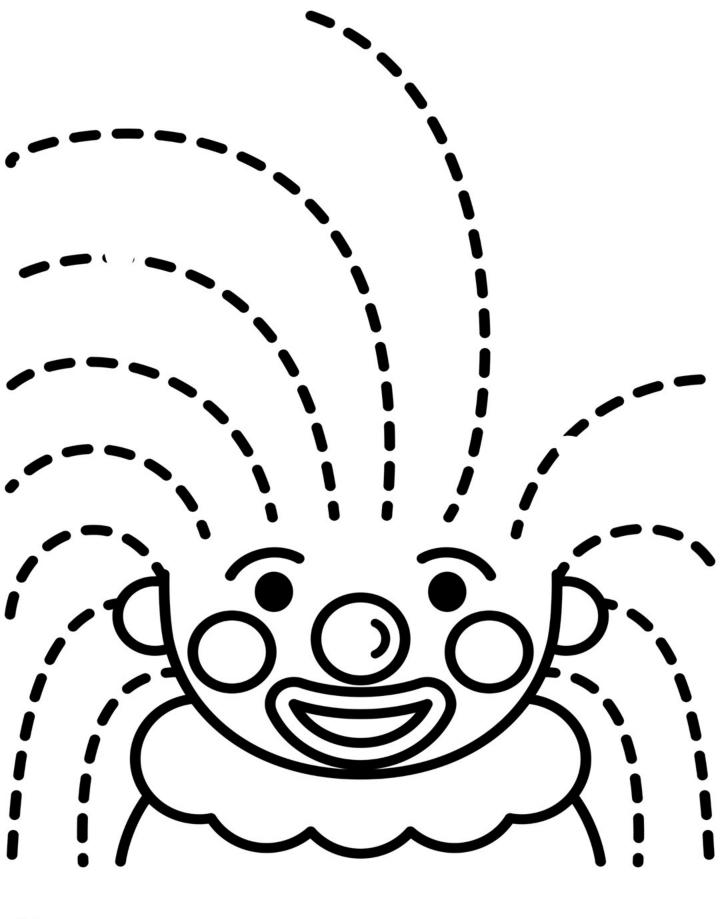








Name _____



Cotton Candy Letter Writing Sensory Bin



Supplies needed:

- White card stock
- Laminating sheets
- Scissors
- · Container/lid
- Pink and Blue Pom Poms





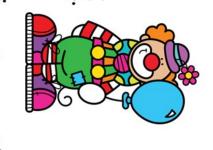


Cotton Candy Letter Writing Sensory Bin

Locate the letter to your name in the sensory bin and write it on the paper.



- Keep objects in bin
- No throwing



You can also use circus words or circus vocabulary words. Find the beginning letter and write.

Print up on sticker paper, cover with self laminating sheet and trim.

Attach to the top of the Cotton Candy Letter Writing Sensory bin.

Directions:

- Print up on white card stock.
- Laminate.
- Trim.
- Place blue and pink pom poms in a container and place alphabet cards in the bin. Print up ahead of time alphabet sheet.
- Have children start with the 1st letter of their name.
 Ask them what letter their name starts with, have them located the letter in the bin, take it out and trace the letter on the alphabet sheet.
- You can have children look for different letters and trace the letters on the alphabet sheet.

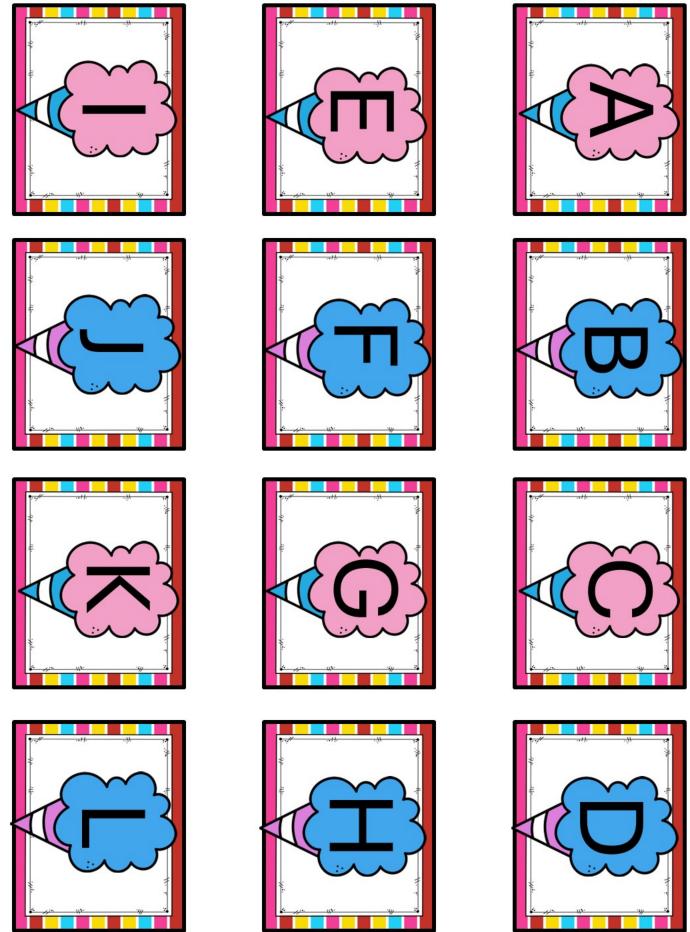
Some letters to look for: C- circus, clown, e – elephant, r – ring master, t – tent, j – juggler.

They can also use the laminated cards to practice writing in their journals. Practice writing the letters.

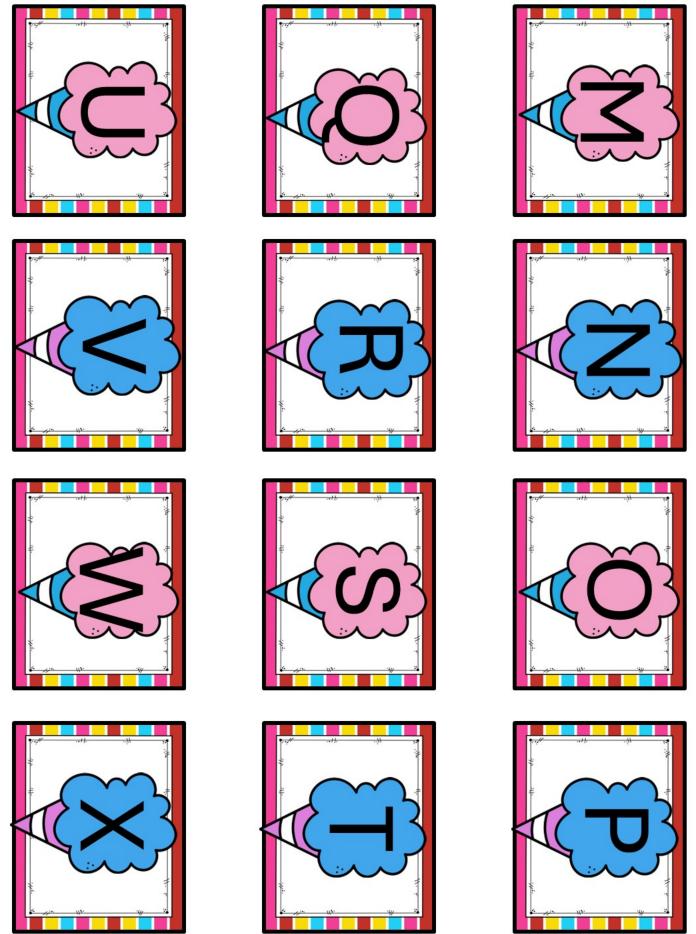
Another option: You can use the following vocabulary cards. Let preschooler pick out a card, say the word, the letter the word starts with and find the beginning letter in the bin. Write the letter on the sheet.



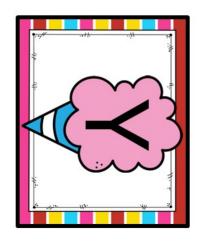


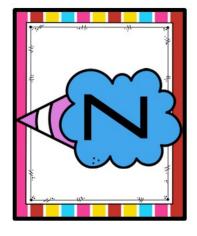


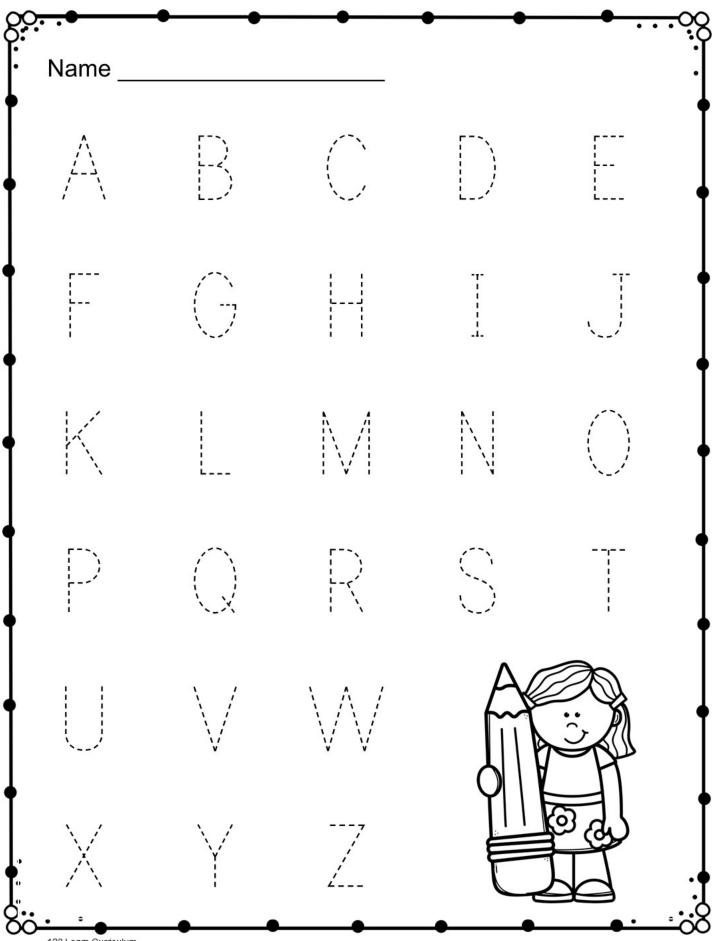
123 Learn Curriculum



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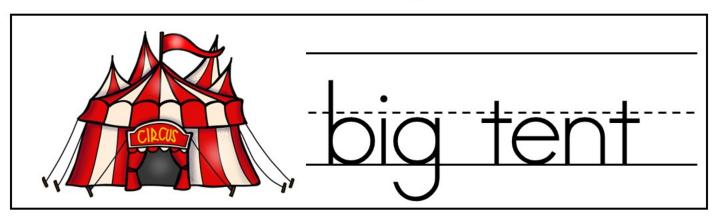


Name \bigcirc 0

Circus Vocabulary Words

- Print up on white card stock.
- · Laminate.
- Trim.
- Place in writing center. Children can practice writing words on paper or dry eraser board.

Circus Vocabulary Words

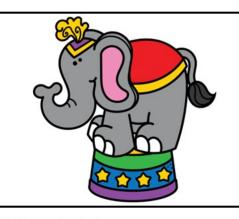




ring master



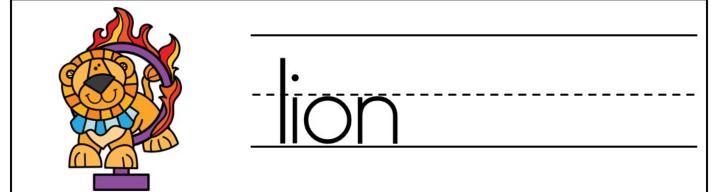
clown



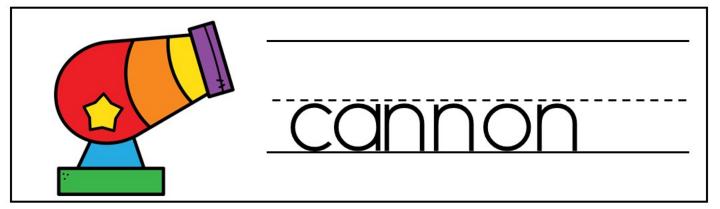
elephant

Circus Vocabulary Words

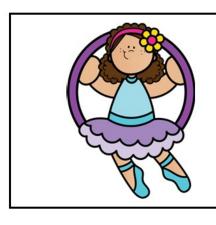








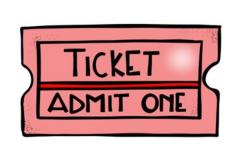
Circus Vocabulary Words



acrobat



<u>unicycle</u>

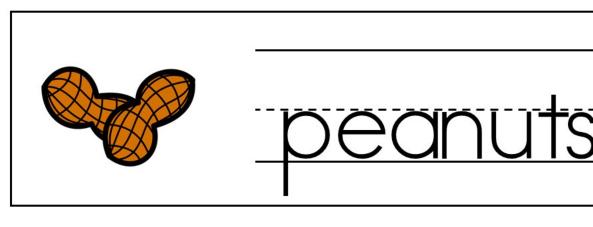


ticket



popcorn

Circus Vocabulary Words

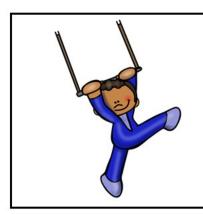




cotton candy



<u>balloons</u>

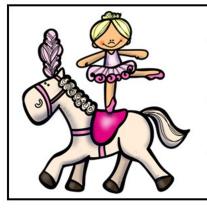


rapeze

Pets Vocabulary Words



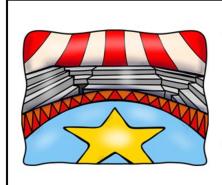
juggle



circus pony



bear

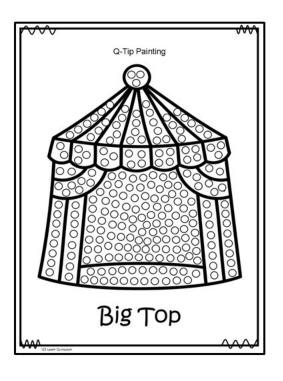


<u>circus ring</u>

Circus Painting

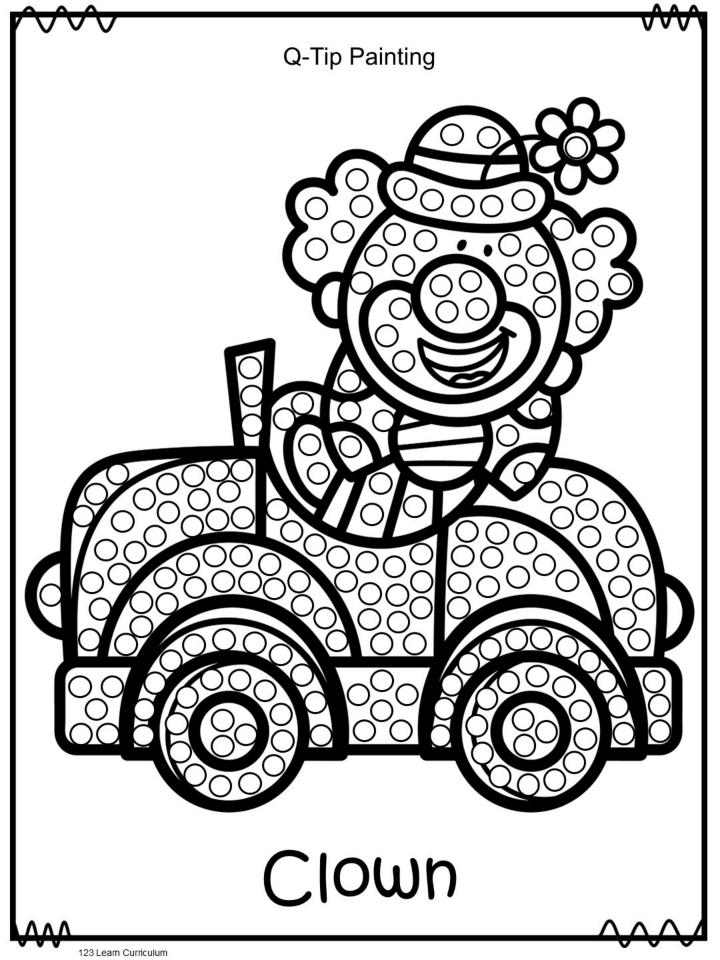
- Print up sheets on white card stock.
- Have small containers of paint available for children and let them paint pictures using Q-Tips and paint.



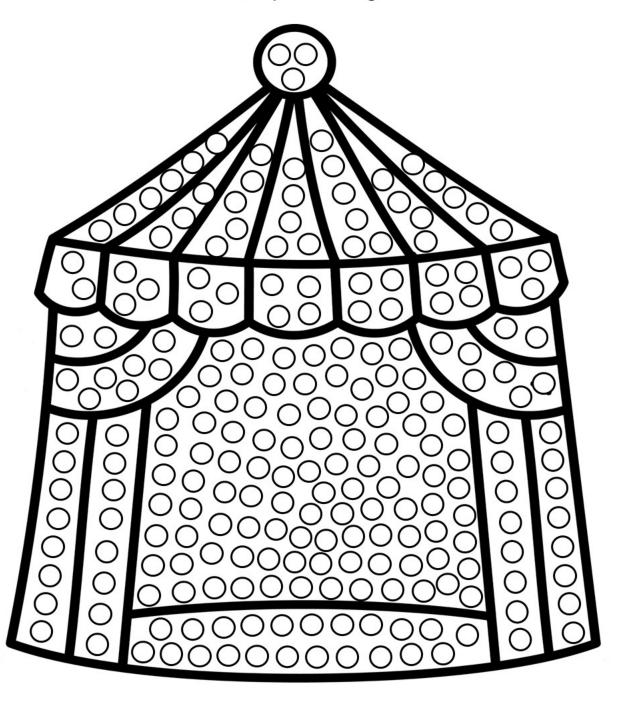








Q-Tip Painting



Big Top

Match the Circus Shapes

Materials:

- Shape Cards
- Clothes Pins
- Laminating sheets

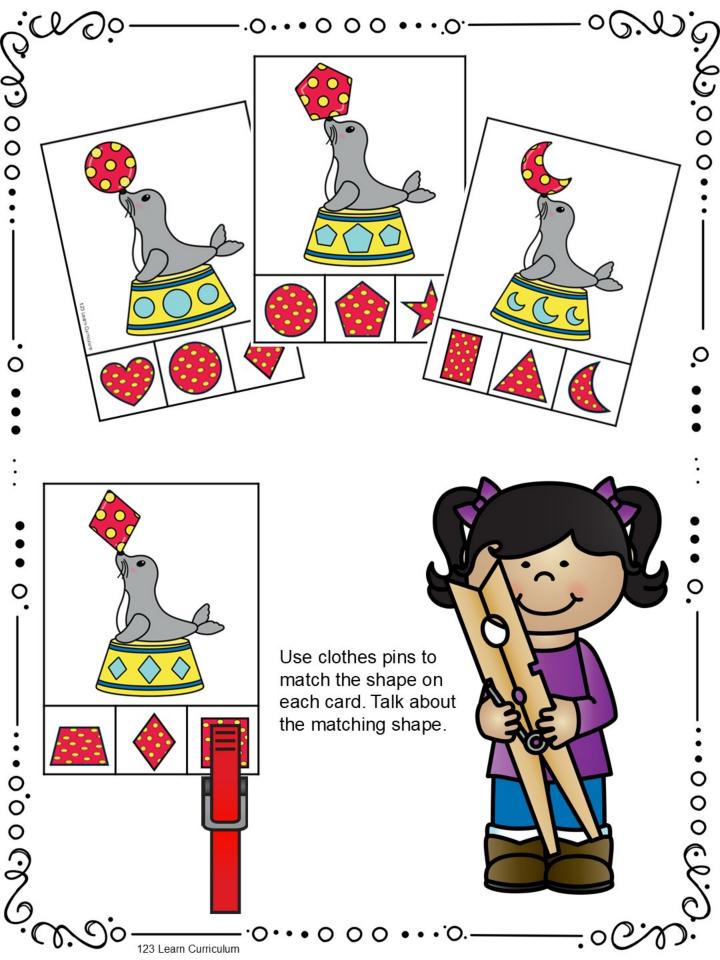
Directions: Print up cards onto white card stock. Trim and laminate. Have children sit at the table with the shape cards and clothes pins. Have children match the shape to the seal ball shape by using a clothespin.

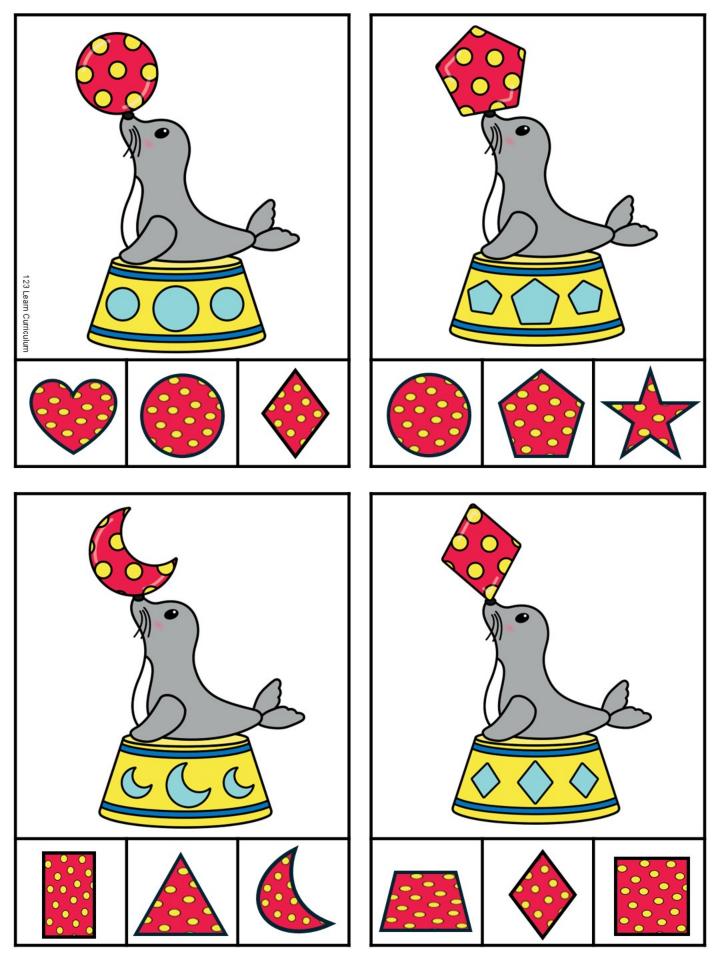
You can make this activity self-checking by placing a small sticker on the back of the card behind the correct answer before laminating.

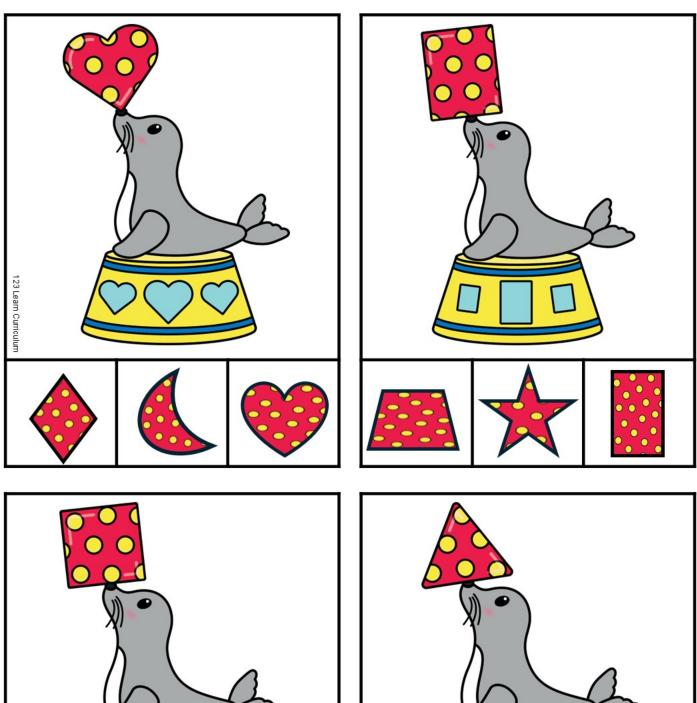
Good small motor skills. Let them practice opening and closing the clothes pin.

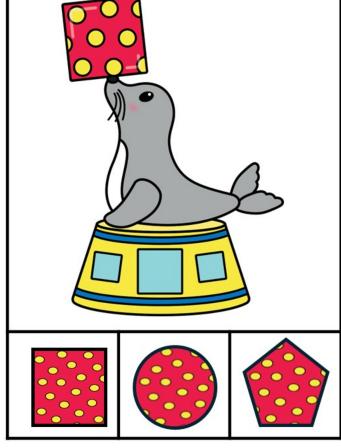
To purchase from Amazon.com, click on picture below

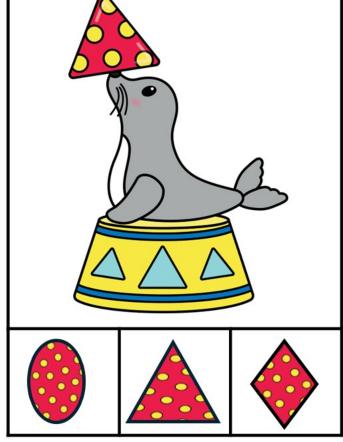


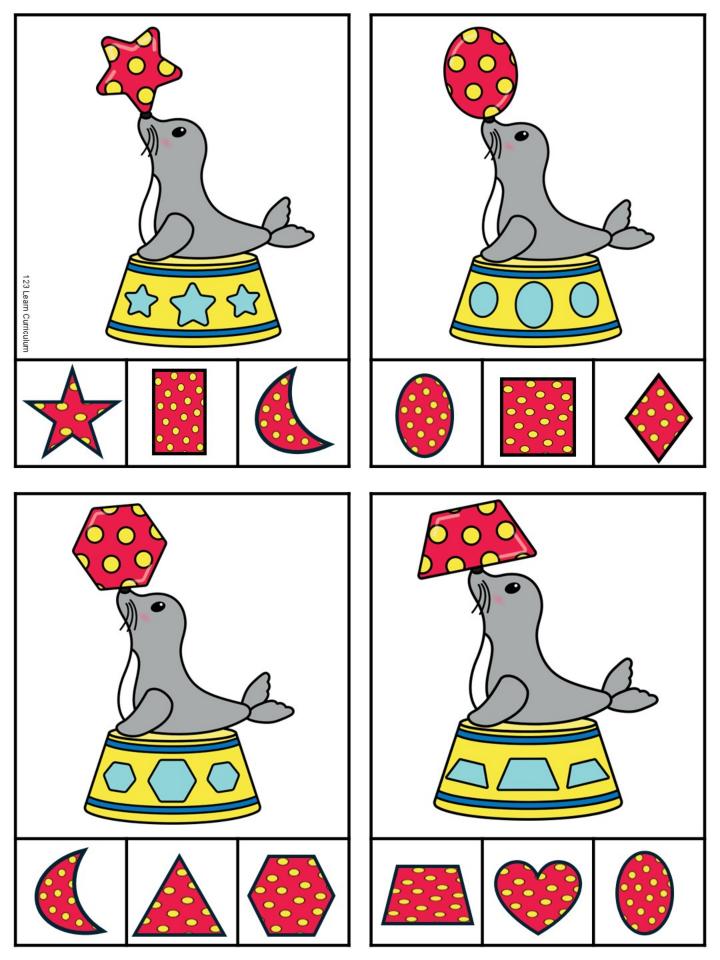












Flaming Hoop Jump

How to Play:

Materials Needed:

Orange – Red – Yellow Streamers Hulu hoop Scotch tape

Setup:

Ahead of time attach the streamers to hula hoop using tape. You can make streamers about 2-3 feet long.

Directions:

Have children take turns jumping though the hula hoops, to mimic circus hoops. Children can jump through them like brave performers. Have children use their imagination and talk to them what their circus act is.

Encourage jumping with both feet or crawling through to adapt for various abilities.



Circus-Themed Movement Circuit

Benefits of doing circus centers include:

- 1. Stimulating imagination and creativity
- Improving hand-eye coordination, concentration, throwing and catching skills, and ambidexterity
- Improving confidence and self-esteem
- 4. Developing persistence and perseverance

Tightrope Walk

Lay down a jump rope or masking tape line and have kids walk heel-to-toe across it like daring acrobats. Add beanbags to balance for an extra challenge.

Clown Shoe Relay

Use oversized shoes (or wrap shoes in paper to make them "clowny") and have kids race from one end of the room to the other. Great for coordination and laughs. Another option: Use flippers. This will give children the feeling of walking with too big of shoes like a clown.

Feed the Elephant

Set up bins as "elephant mouths" and have kids toss beanbags or soft balls into them. You can even label them with letters or numbers for a literacy twist.

Beach Ball & Noodle Relay

Pair kids up to balance a beach ball between two pool noodles as they walk across the room. It's teamwork, balance, and giggles all in one.

Circus Yoga

Introduce poses like "lion roar," "seal clap," or "strongman stretch." It's a calming way to build strength and flexibility while staying in theme.

Ringmaster's Balance Beam

Tape a line on the floor or use a foam balance beam.

Kids walk heel-to-toe with a top hat or baton, practicing poise and focus.

Animal Parade Crawl

Tunnel or play tents represent the "animal cages." Kids crawl through like sneaky tigers or silly monkeys, building core strength.

Strongman Push

Use light foam blocks or small weighted toys to "push" across a mat. Emphasizes gross motor strength and dramatic play.

Popcorn Toss

Toss white beanbags (popcorn!) into "popcorn buckets" (baskets). Add alphabet letters for a literacy twist.



Tightrope Balance with Umbrella Twirl

Walk a taped line while holding an open umbrella. Encourage twirling at the end for flair—great for coordination and bilateral movement.

Clown Wiggle Freeze Dance

Play circus music and have kids dance and wiggle like clowns. When the music stops, they freeze in a silly pose!

Having a Ball

Learning to juggle. How fun to throw up and catch a sponge ball, now add one or 2 more balls. Have fun watching the children trying to manipulate and juggle.

Grand Finale: Big Top Obstacle Dash

Combine cones, tunnels, and low hurdles for a final dash through the circus. Encourage kids to narrate their act—"Now presenting Ellie the Elephant!"

You can rotate groups or let children move freely from station to station depending on your space and timing.





Circus-Themed Movement Circuit



Popcorn Toss

Clown Wiggle Freeze Dance

Grand Finale: Big Top Obstacle Dash

Circus Playdoh Mats

Materials needed:

- White card stock
- Laminating sheets
- · Assorted colors of playdough

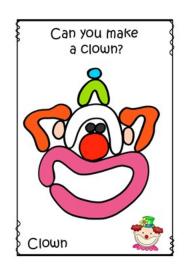
Directions:

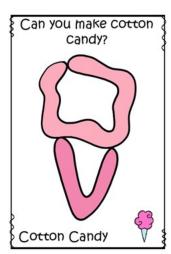
Print up, laminate and trim.



Sit at the table with children and Play-Doh mats. Talk to them about the mat they pick to use and have child read the card. Let them know what they need to do for each Play-Doh mat. Show children how to roll the Play-Doh to make pieces for a balloon, clown, cotton candy, etc. to place on the pictures of the cards.

Children can also take the Play-Doh and press onto the pictures to fill in the space. Kids will have fun working their fingers squishing and pulling Play-Doh.





Circus Play-Doh Mats

Directions:

Print up, laminate and trim.

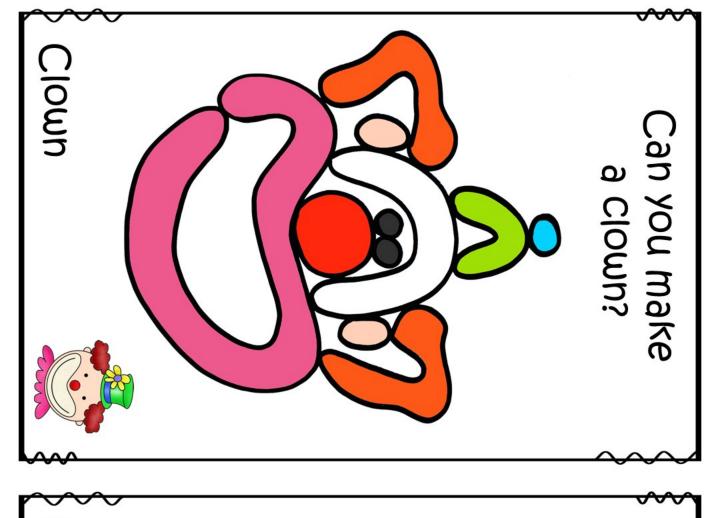
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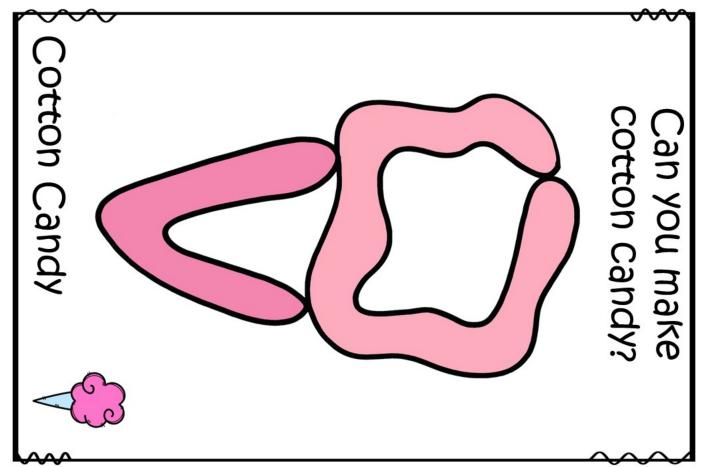
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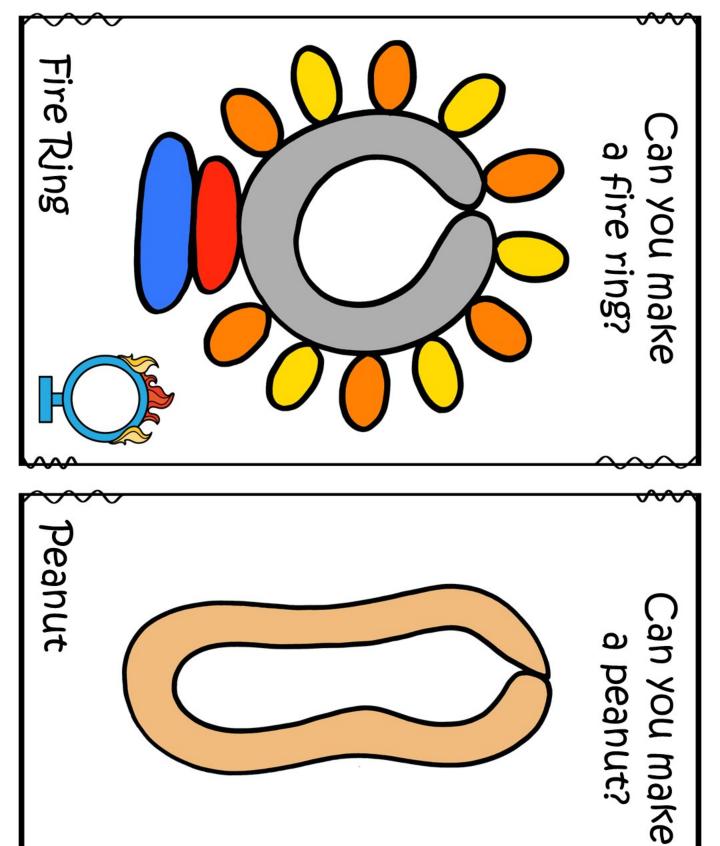
Can you make a balloon?

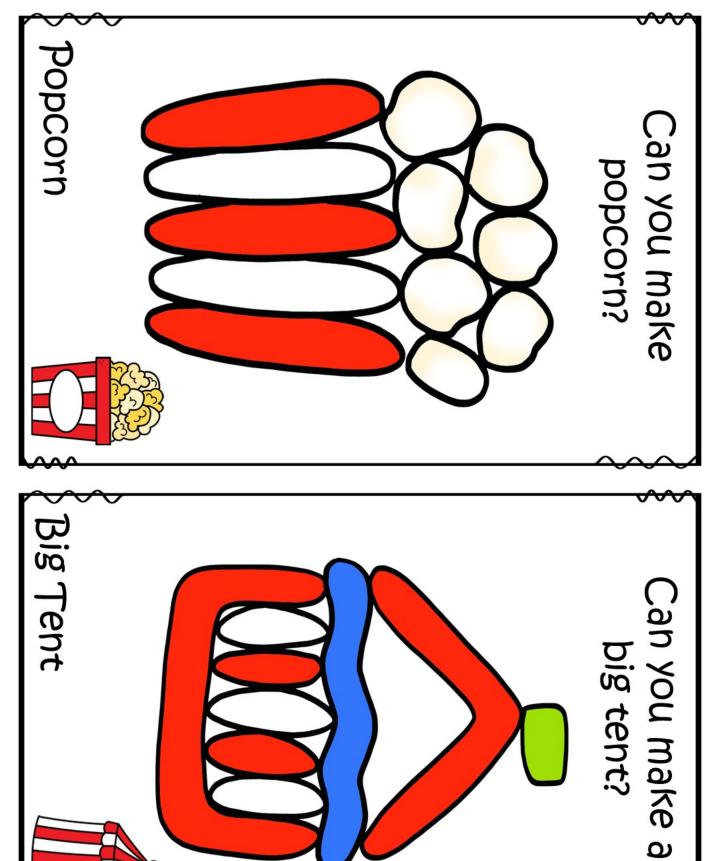


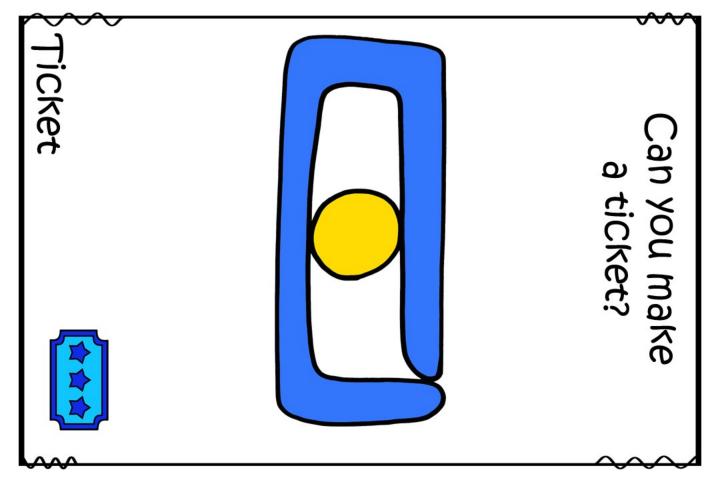
Balloon











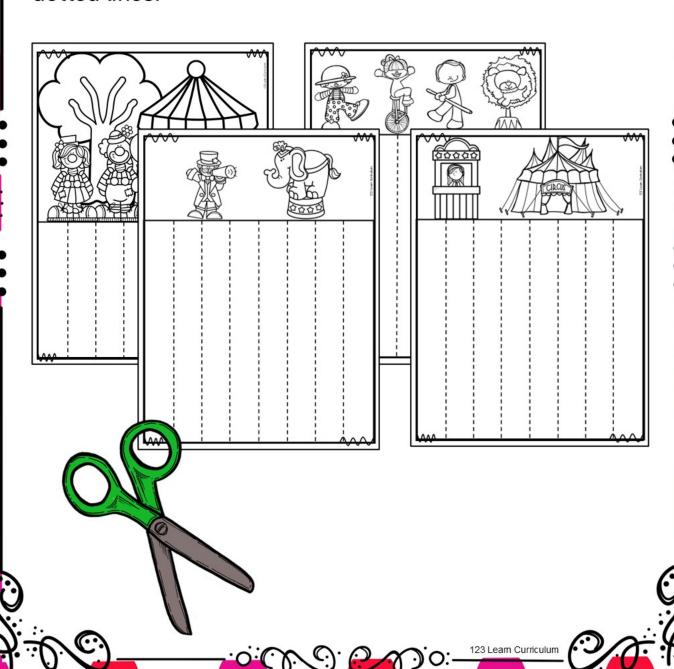


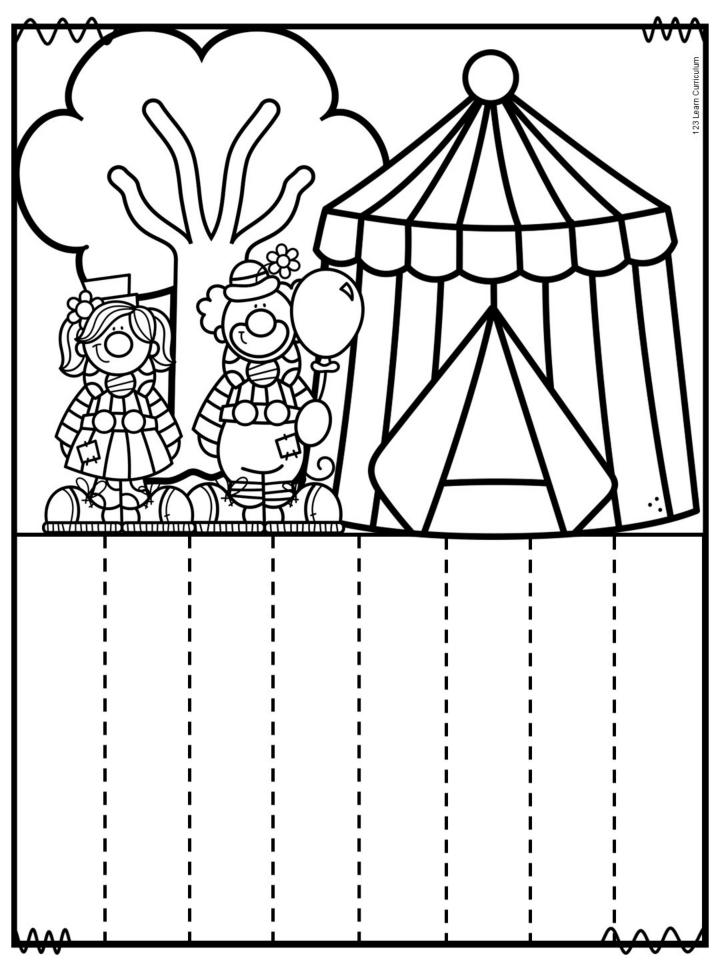
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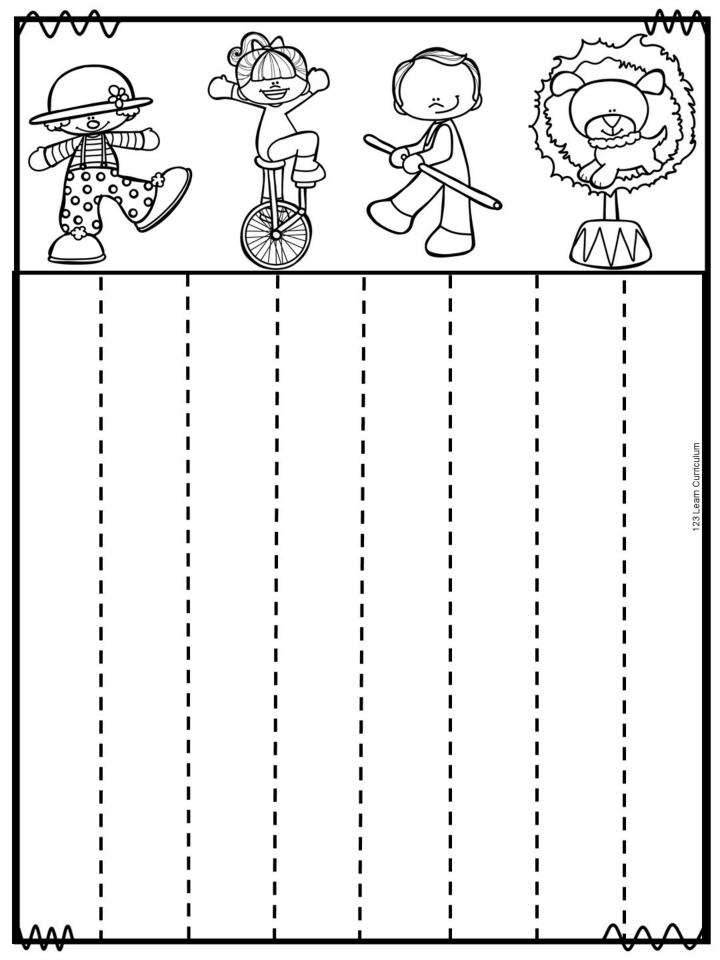
Directions:

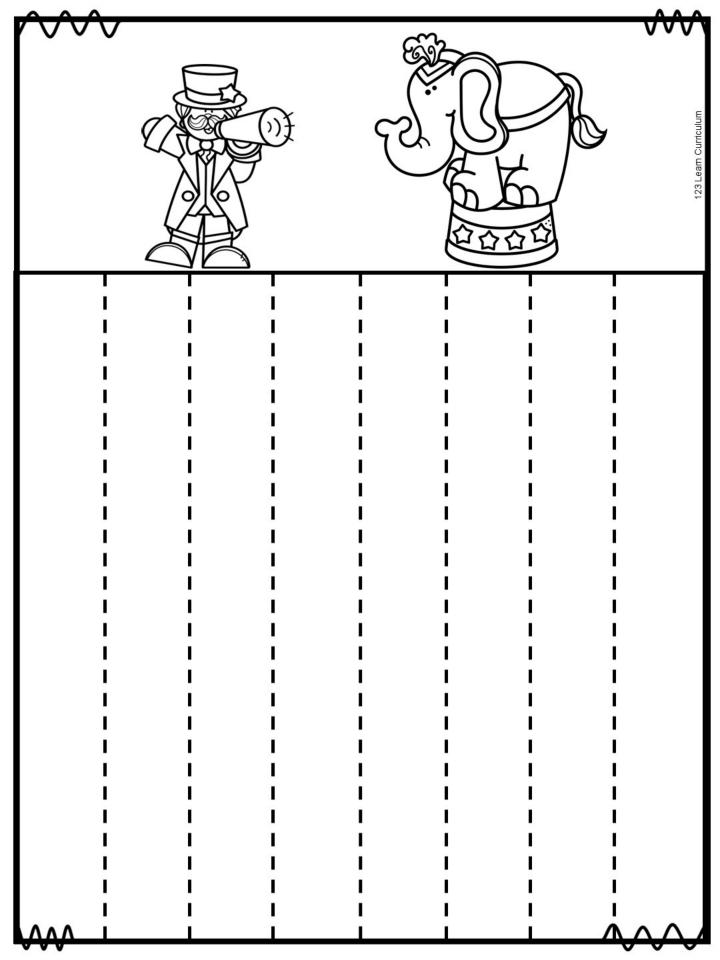
Print up sheets on white card stock.

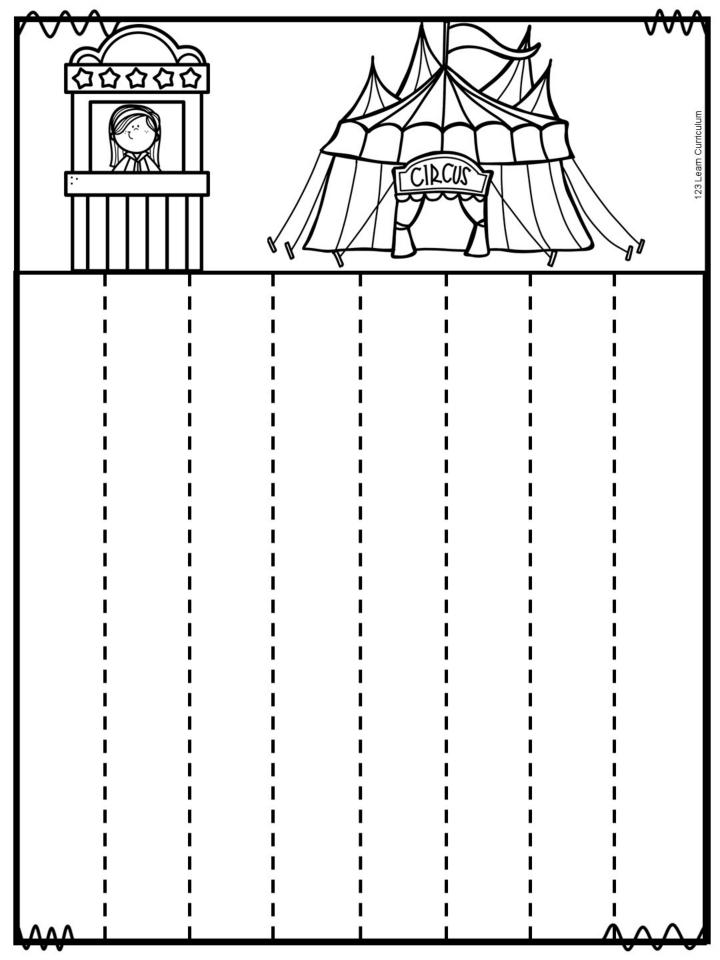
Have children color sheet and using scissors cut on the dotted lines.











Science Activities

Here's how you can spin each "sideshow" into a safe, sensory-rich mini-act for 1–3-year-olds. The keys are big tools instead of tiny parts, edible-safe or washable materials, ultra-short steps and maximum hands-on feel.

Gentle Fizz Tub

Skip popcorn and use jumbo foam balls or bath beads. Fill a shallow bin with water + a spoonful of baking soda. Toddlers drop in a bead, then you pour vinegar for a fizzy "pop."

Safety note: keep vinegar at arm's length and rinse hands after.

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Rainbow Melt Tray

Forgo M&Ms—use colored ice cubes or frozen fruit pieces in a shallow tray. Add a little warm water and let kids watch colors bleed.

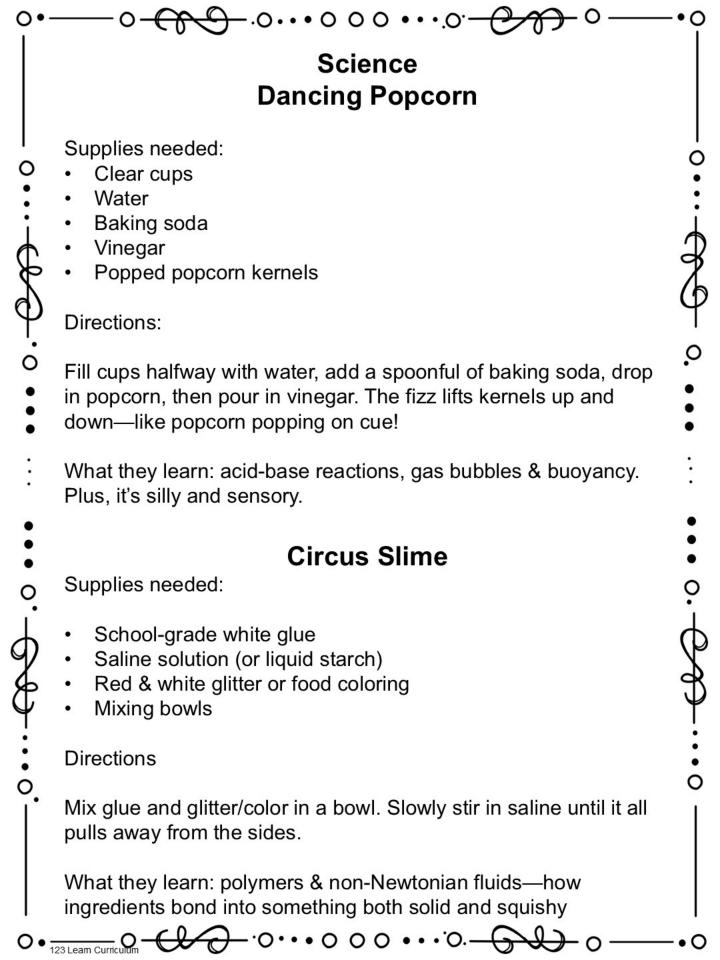
Fine-motor spin: spooning out melted "juice" into clear cups.

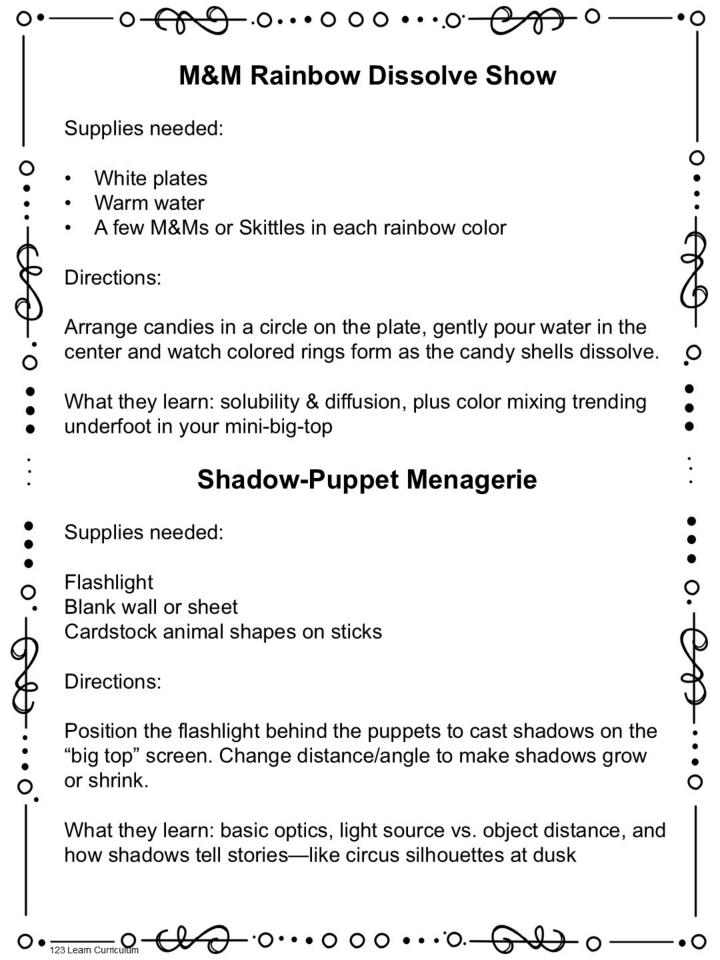
Hand-Shadow Show

Ditch cardstock shapes; use your hands or giant foam cut-outs. Flashlight close to wall or sheet—guide toddlers' hands to make animal silhouettes.

Storytime tie-in: each shadow "actor" has a name and a sound. General Toddler Tips

Keep each station to 5–7 minutes—then rotate. Use trays or shallow bins to contain spills. Narrate every move: texture, color, popping sound—builds vocabulary. Always supervise closely; opt for edible or non-toxic ingredients.





Monday – Large Group Activities

Lacing Cards

Children love lacing cards. You can print up the color lacing cards, cut out – leaving about ½ an inch border, laminate, and punch holes around the card using a hole punch.

Give the children lacing strings, yarn or shoelaces to lace the cards.

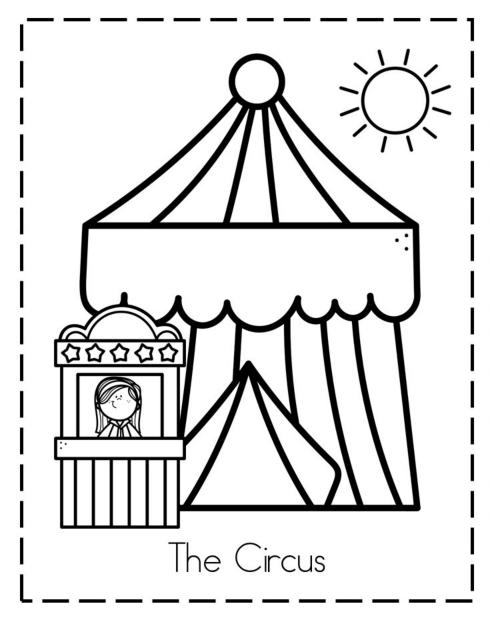
Lacing strings can be purchased through:

http://www.discountschoolsupply.com/

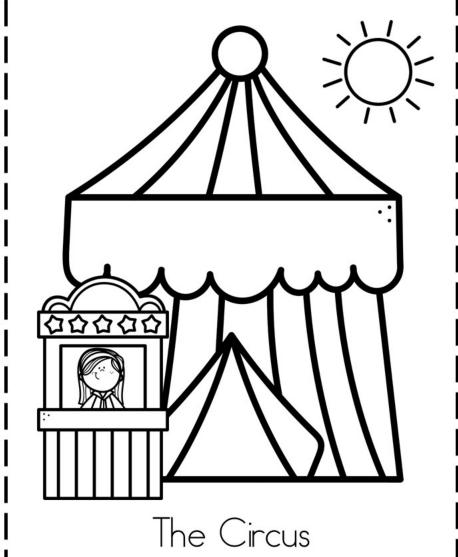
http://www.lakeshorelearning.com/

https://www.amazon.com/

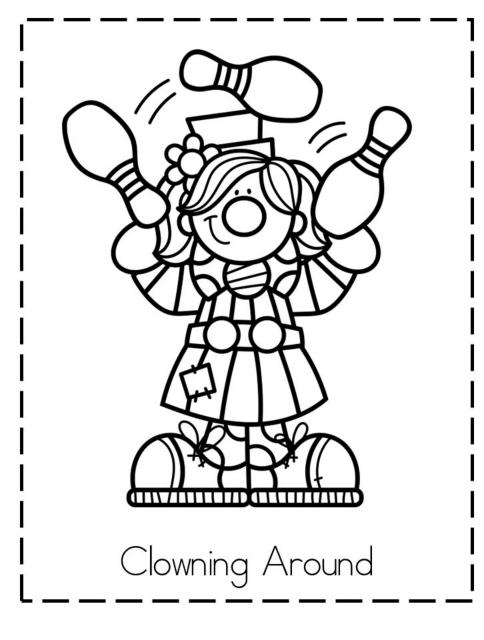
Type lacing strings in search. ©



Print up on white card stock. Color - Cut out on the dotted line. Punch holes with a hole punch. Have children lace using lacing string.

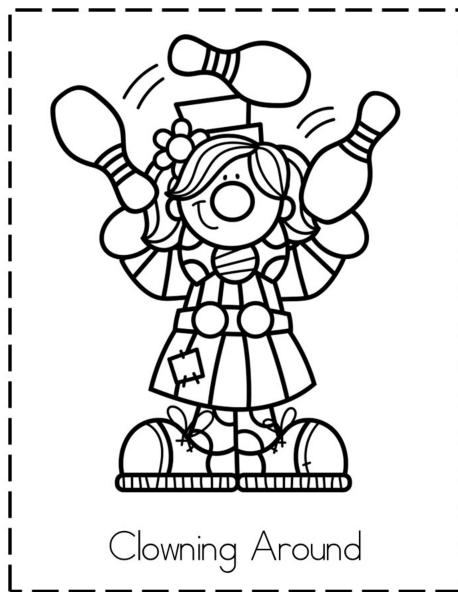


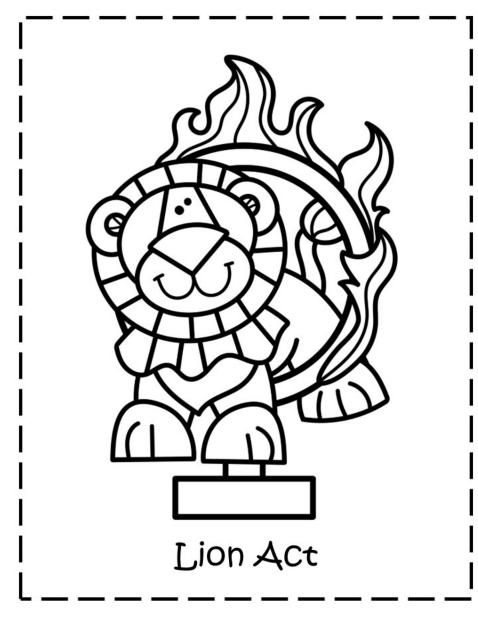
The Circus Lacing Card



The Circus Lacing Card

Print up on white card stock. Color - Cut out on the dotted line. Punch holes with a hole punch. Have children lace using lacing string.

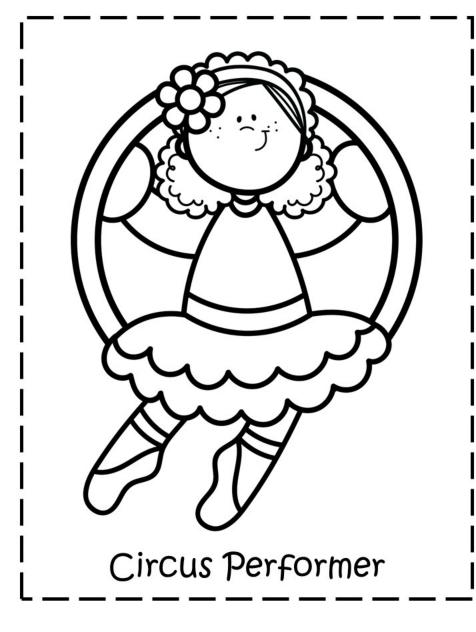




The Circus Lacing Card

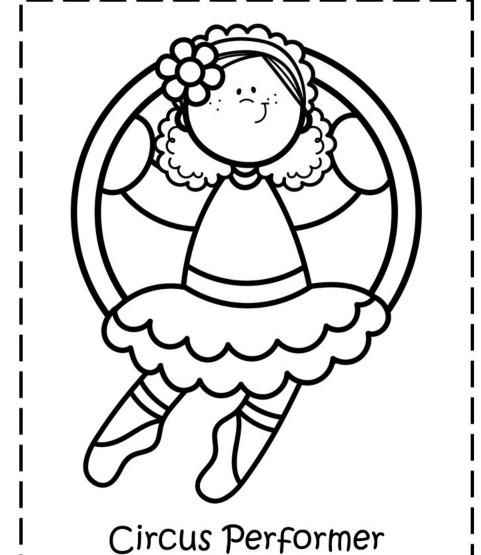
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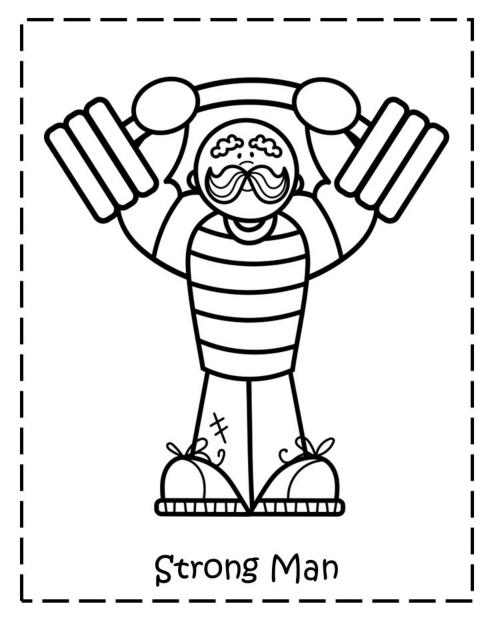




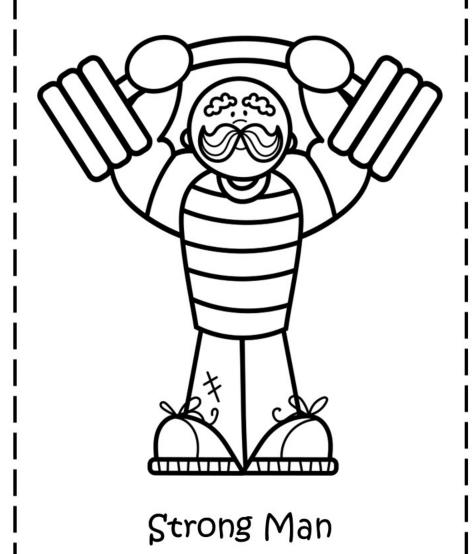
The Circus Lacing Card

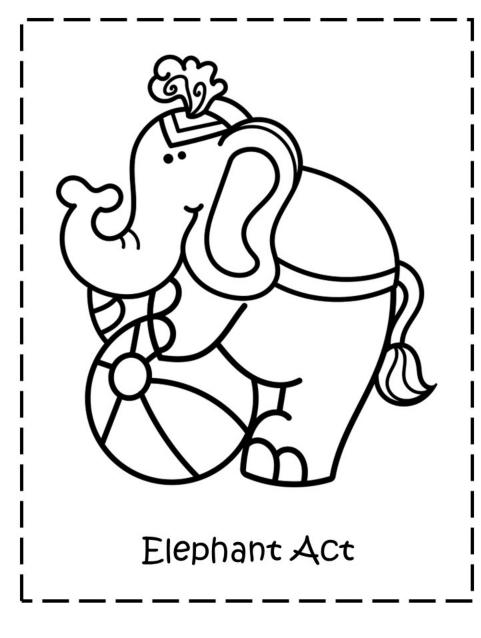
Print up on white card stock. Color. Cut out on the dotted line. Punch holes with a hole punch. Have children lace using lacing string.



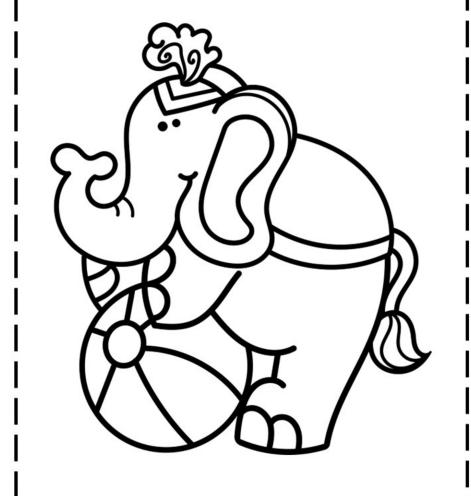


Print up on white card stock. Color. Cut out on the dotted line. Punch holes with a hole punch. Have children lace using lacing string.

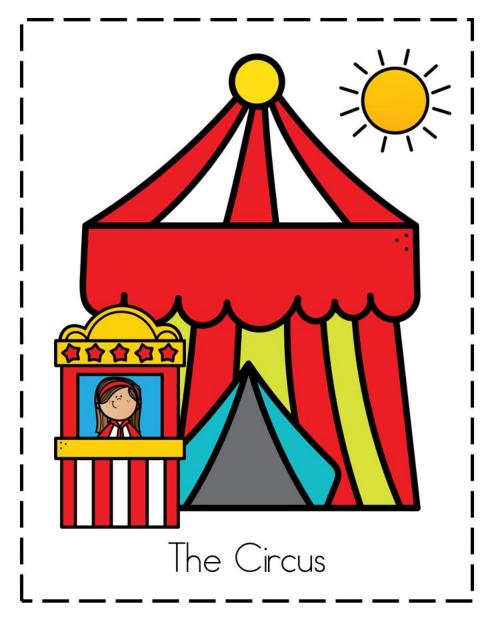




Print up on white card stock. Color. Cut out on the dotted line. Punch holes with a hole punch. Have children lace using lacing string.



Elephant Act



Print up on white card stock. Cut out on the dotted line. Punch holes with a hole punch. Have children lace using lacing string.





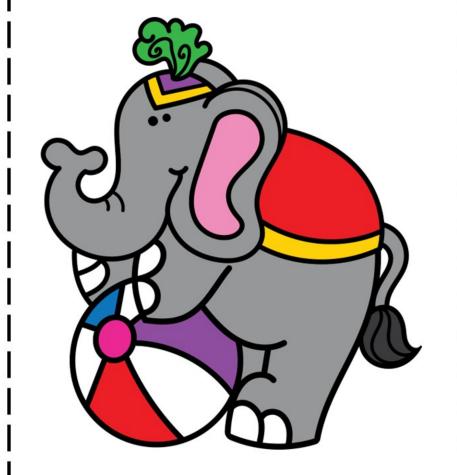
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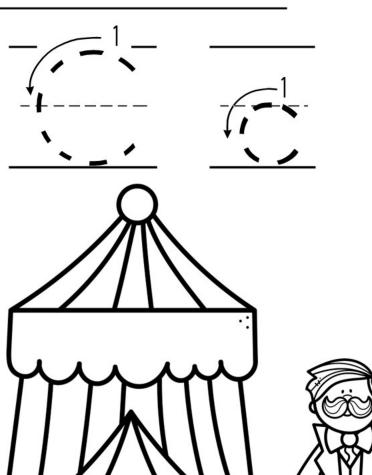
The Circus Lacing Card



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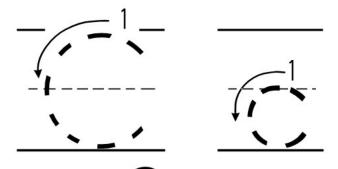


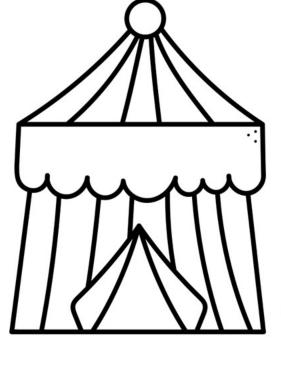
Elephant Act



Write the word circus

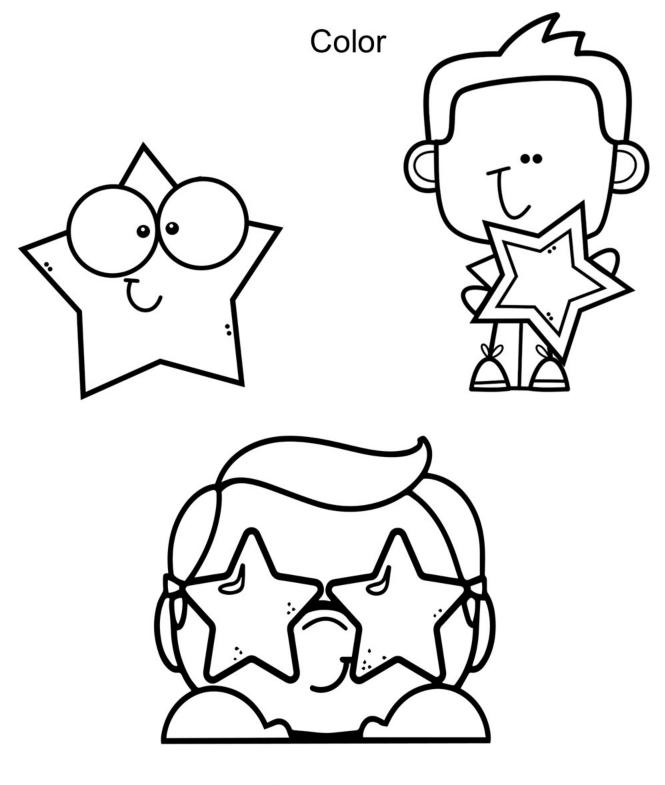






Write the word circus

circus



Stars

Tuesday – Large Group Activities

Circus Sequencing

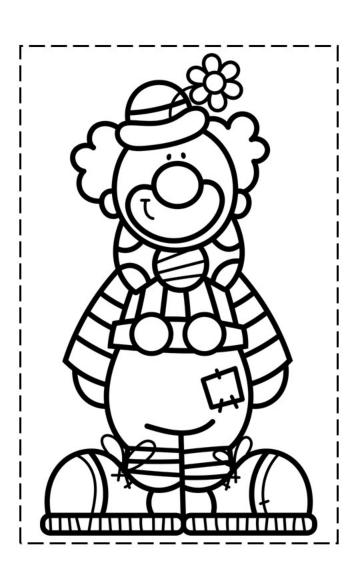
Print up the sheet with circus pictures on white card stock.

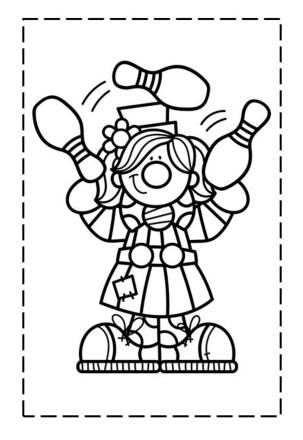
Give to the children to color and cut out. Glue them in sequence – smallest to largest.

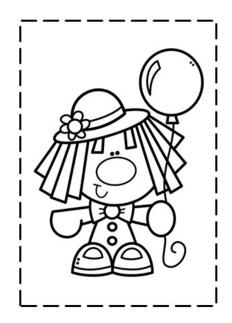
Print up the sequence – smallest to largest sheet on card stock, or hand print the information on a piece of construction paper.

Circus Sequencing Small to Large

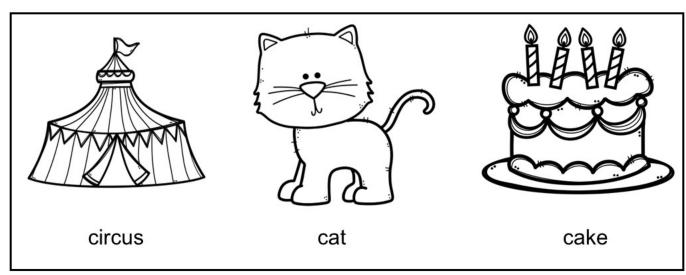
Small Medium Large

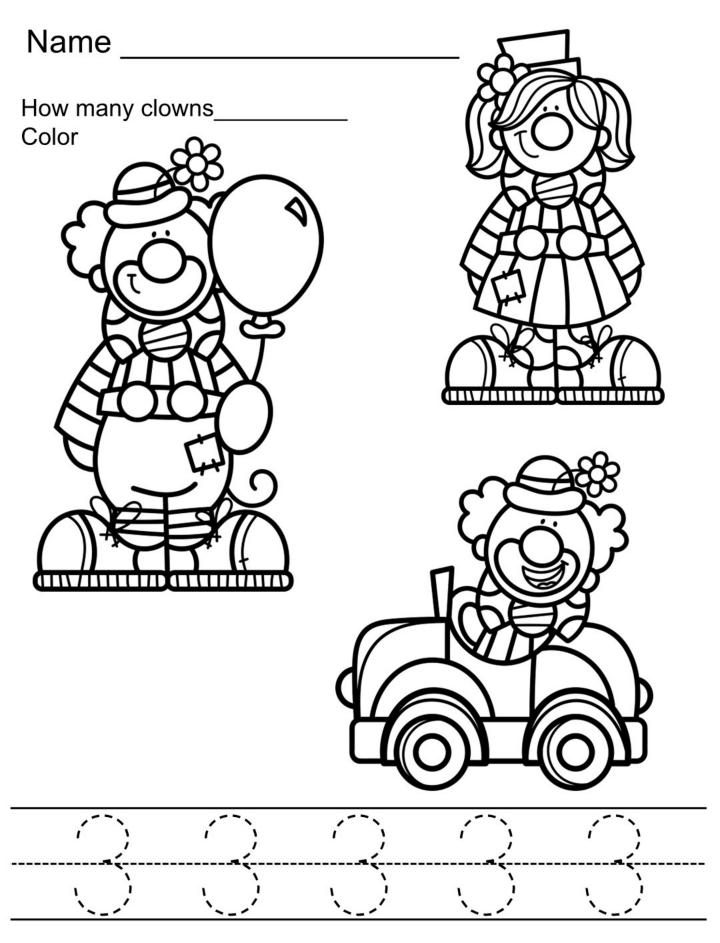




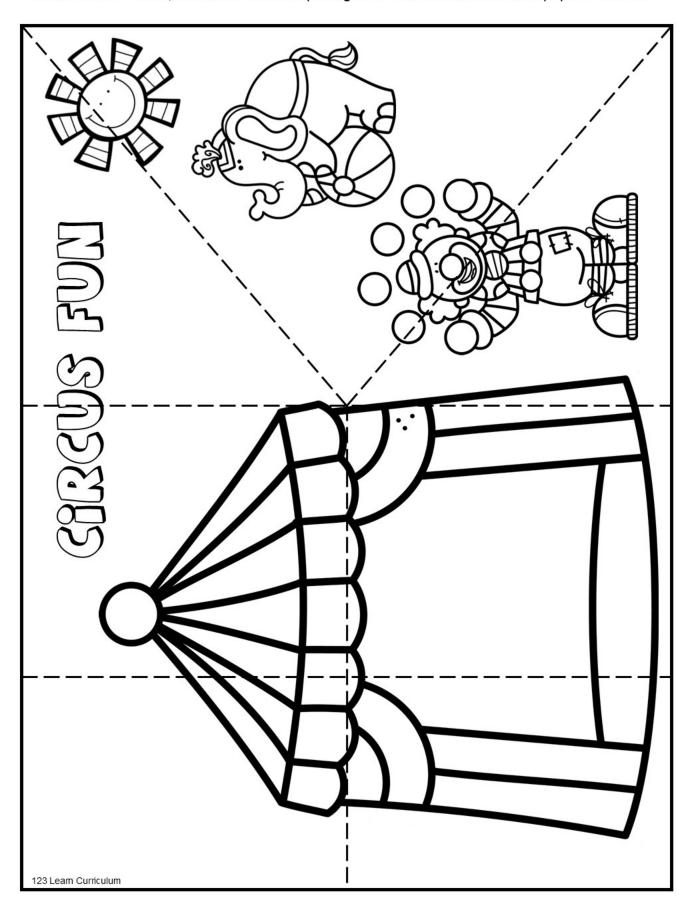


Name	
C	clown
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
\	
- 	
All these pictures begin with the letter c.	

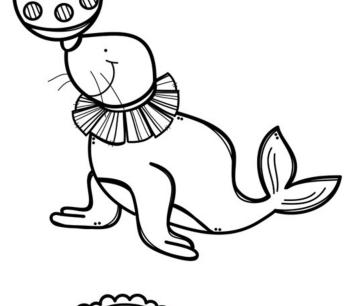




Wednesday – Large Group Activities



Count the circus acts.







Circle the number 3 - Color

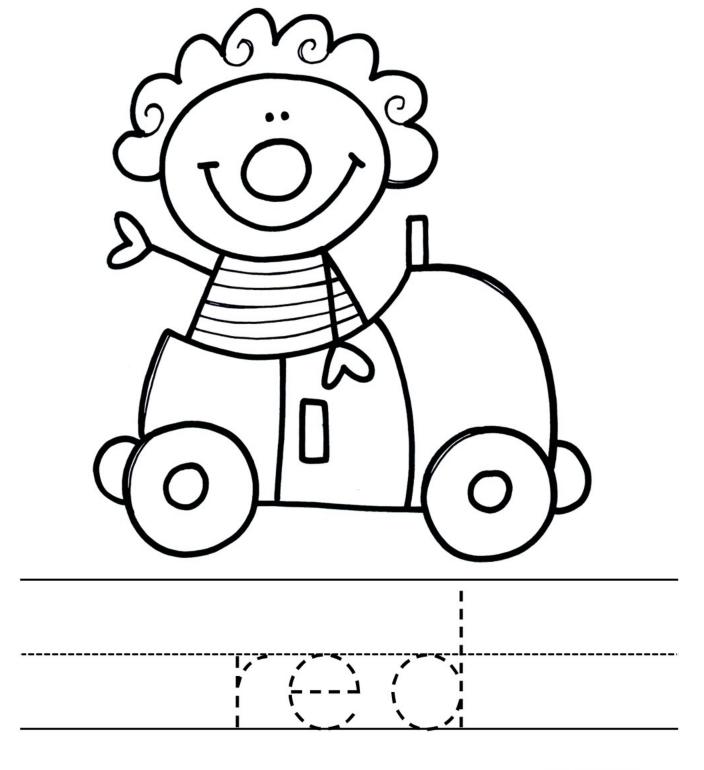
()

2

3

4

Red Clown Car

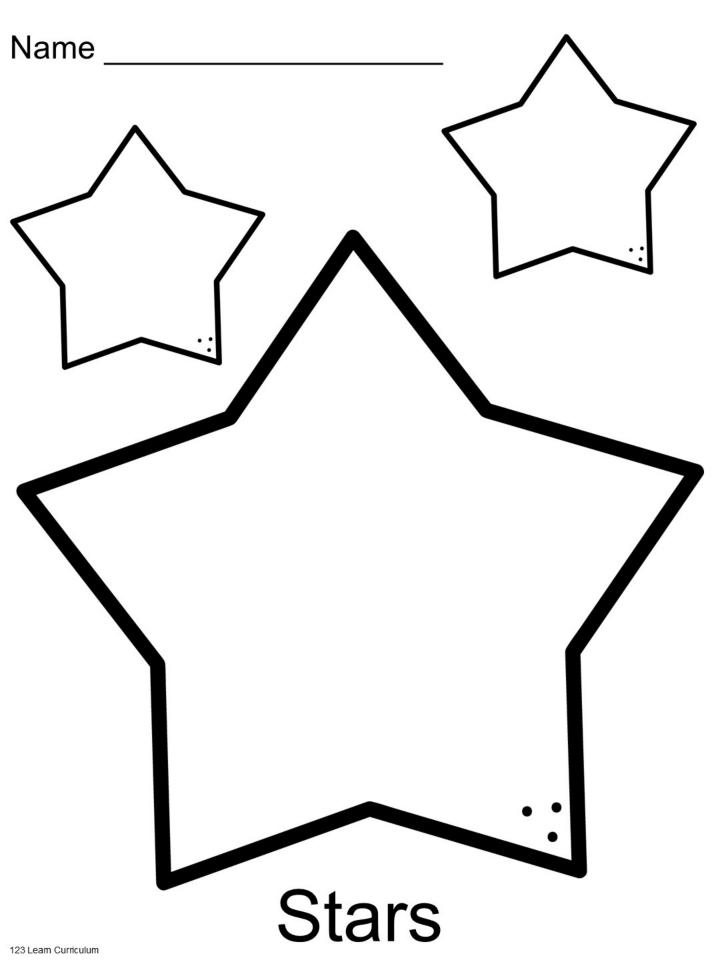


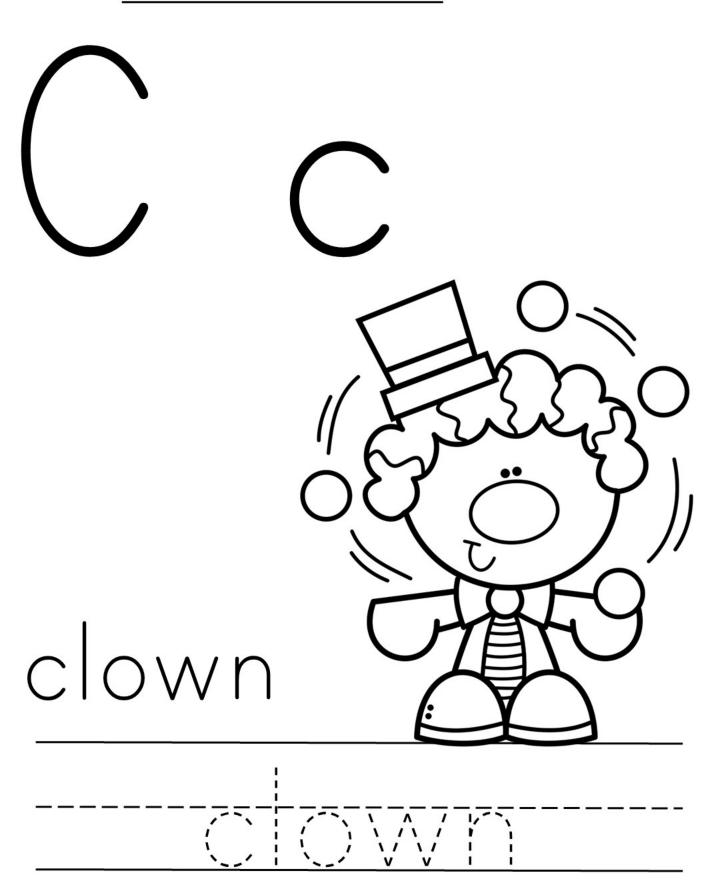
Thursday – Large Group Activities

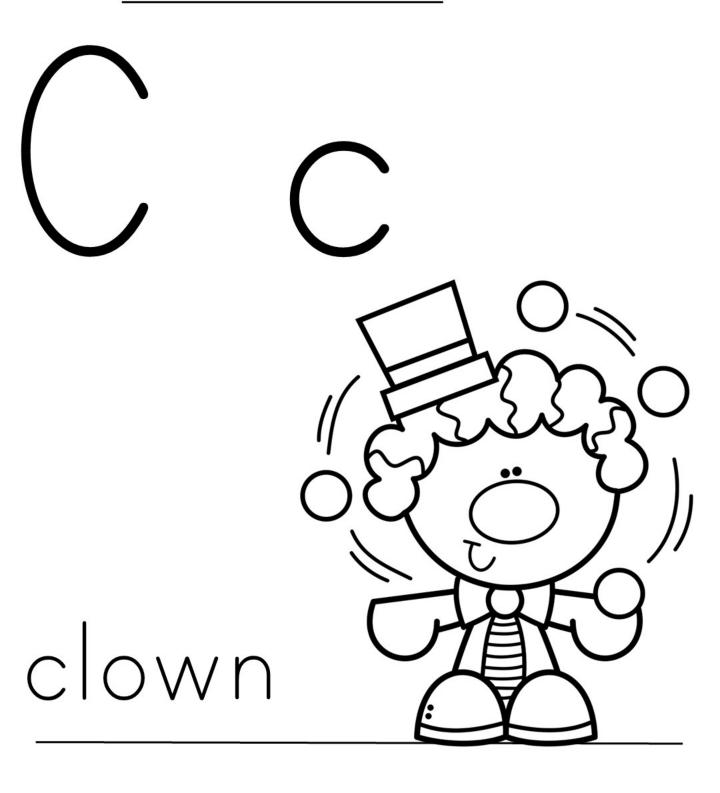
Star Sheet

Print up the following sheet onto white card stock. Give children assorted strips of colored card stock.

Have children cut the card stock strips and glue onto the star shapes.

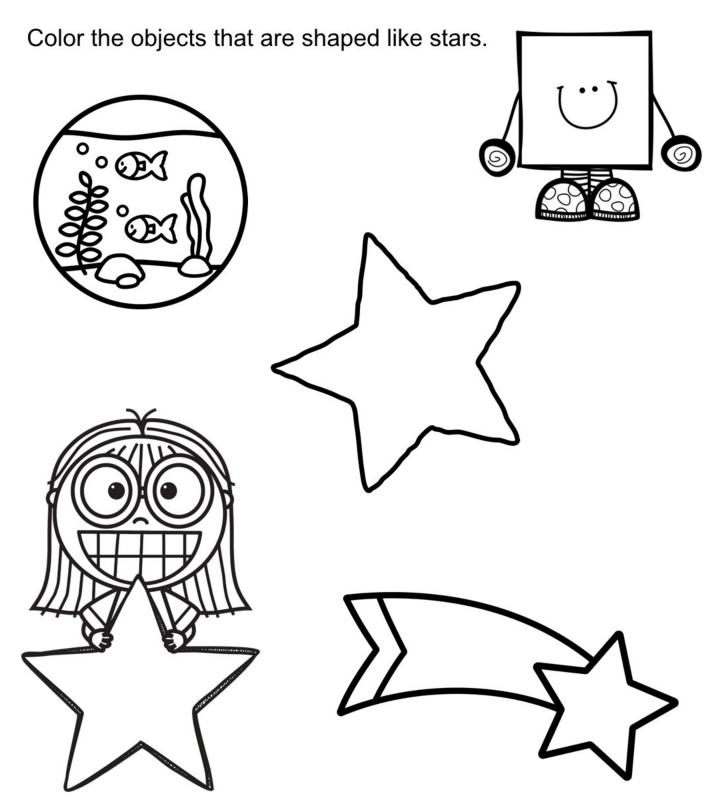






123 Learn Curriculum

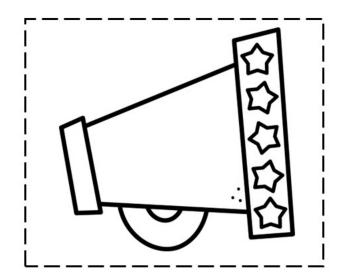
Stars



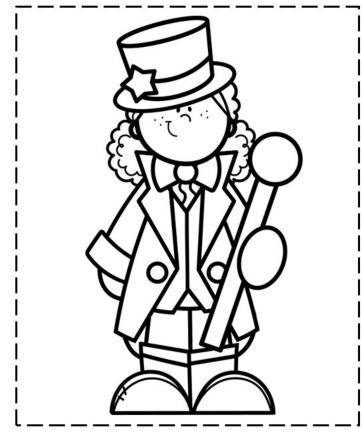
Friday – Large Group Activities

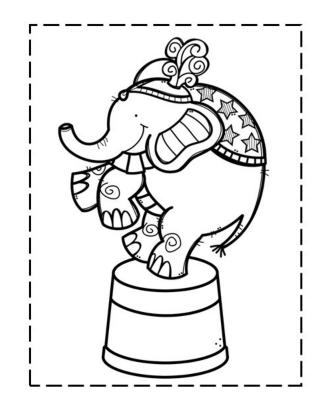
Color – Cut out on dotted line – Glue onto construction paper.

CBRCUS FUN









3

Learning the Number 3

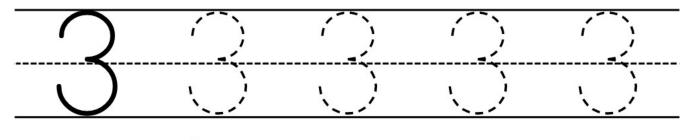
Let's Make a 3

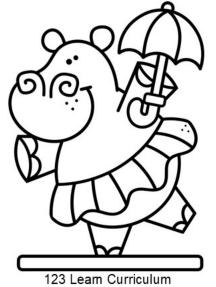
Start at the dot number 1 at the top,
And curve down to number 2.
Make a curve to number 3
And then your through.
That's how it's done.



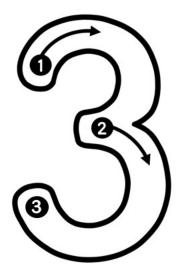
Now you made the number 3!

3 circus animals

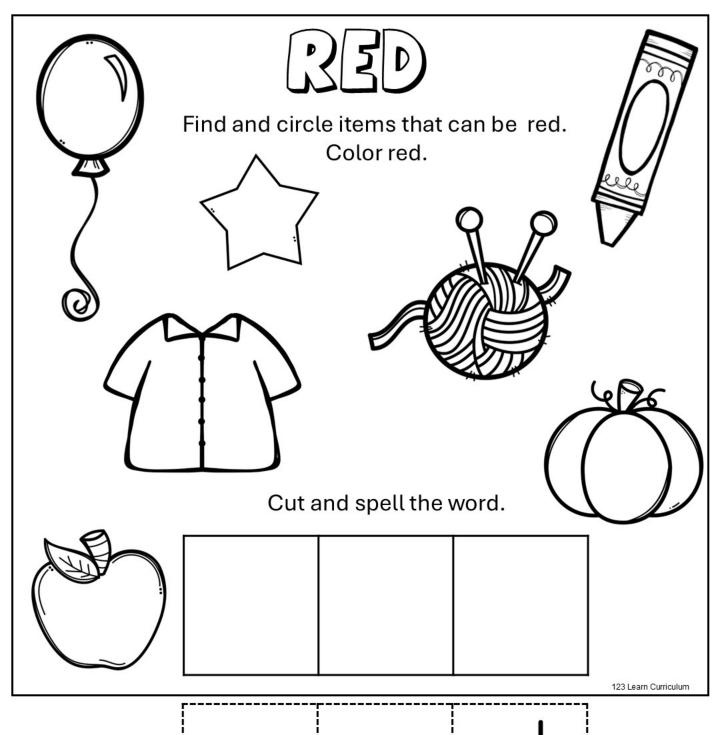








We LOVE colors



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