Make a Rousing Circus Song!

USE THESE INSTRUCTIONS WITH Circus Song BRAINSTORMING PACKET

Overview   Create or sing a Circus Song in line with traditions that energize, engage and entertain audience.

I. Why?   Brainstorm pg. 1

By the end of this activity, child will

- Create or perform a circus song with instrument, voice and lyrics
  - Use circus themed melody, rhythm or beat
  - Use circus themed lyrics to engage audience

- Investigate circus music traditions and purposes
  - Select circus instrument
  - Emotional content and delivery
  - Musical melody, sound qualities and rhythm

- Perform song that will energize the audience for the show
  - Prepare, engage and excite audience for tonight's performance
  - Set emotional tone for anticipation and excitement for audience

Accentuate positive aspects for the show

II. What?   Get Ready   Brainstorm pg. 2

- Explore examples of circus music on TV, movies or on the web
- Note elements of rhythm, melody or beat that enhances entertainment and engagement of audience
- Match circus song with child's voice
- Make PROJECT PLAN -  Step 1, Step 2, Step 3, FINALE! Reflections

TIME ESTIMATE

➢ Min. 1 – 3 hrs.
➢ (song itself is less than 2 – 3 min.

MATERIALS

➢ Computer with internet access
➢ Recording device: video, audio
➢ Costume materials? Props? Megaphone
➢ Stage? Lighting?
My Multiple Intelligences engaged . . . Brainstorm pg. 3

- **Musical** – melody, beat, rhythm and pacing and emotional engagement
- **Linguistic** – Do lyrics reflect circus traditions?
- **Interpersonal** – Does song make emotional connection with audience?
- **Kinesthetic** – Do gestures & movements enhance song performance.
- **Visual-Spatial** – costume appropriate to circus performer (hat, gloves, coat, scarf), props
- **Intrapersonal** – Does the song match with the child's personal feelings about the circus?

Preparation

- Search for examples of circus songs on TV, in movies on the web. Ask friends and family for their favorite circus music or songs. See resources.
- What instrument or recorded music do you need?
- What key lyrics or melody or beat should be included?
- Will it be a serious, silly or fun song?

Project Plan Brainstorm pgs. 4 &5


**Step 1.** Use your previous work in Circus Activities 1 and 2 (Circus poster/program and Welcome Speech) to remind you of the atmosphere you are creating for your circus. Having that in mind, what kind of song are you going to sing (joyful, festive, daring)? What instruments will best show the spirit of your circus? Is there music to sing along with on the web?

*Tip: You can make a Mindmap like you did in Circus Activity 2 to help you organize your thoughts.*

Gather any instruments you want to use.

**Step 2.** Go back to songs you found during the preparation phase and pick your favorite song. What do you like about it? You can use this song to help you create the rhythm of your own song.

**Step 3.** Now that you have a melody, write your lyrics. You can use your Circus Program Mindmap for inspiration.

*Tip: Inverse steps 2 and 3 if you'd prefer to start writing your song before creating your melody.*
How can you make the circus song to be fun and exciting with special circus words that engages the audience? Rhymes & rhythms & voice quality?

- Words? Phrases? Music? Sound effects?

**NOTES:**

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**FINAL Reflections**

The parent should **not** provide an evaluation or grade of the child’s performance but instead the child can be queried on the process of writing / recording the circus song:

- What did you do?

- What stands out for you about this activity?

- What surprises you?

- What would you do differently, if you were to do it again?

- What would you like to do next?

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**Resources**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjedLeVGcfE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjedLeVGcfE) - Circus theme song
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HV1B2CpAaQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HV1B2CpAaQ) - Classic circus music
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9w-9x0ur7A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9w-9x0ur7A) - Circus music
Google search. Circus songs = lyrics or images
See Resources below for sample song lyrics

**Tip:** Community Connections. Is there anyone in your family, neighborhood or community child can talk with about circus?

### Class Equivalents / Main Skills

Brainstorm pg. 7

- Music (rhyme, meter, tone, melody, ear training)
- Speech (audience engagement, emotional expression)
- English (poetry, spelling, grammar, punctuation, structure)
- Math (counting beats, recognizing time signature)
- Write for a variety of purposes (CCSSW10)
I see a little clown with a big 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 pointy toes.

I like the little clown who’s big and strong.
I like the clown who giggles all day long.
I like the little clown who is happy as can be.
I like the clown who dances for me!
Birdy’s Kids in Motion
Circus Curriculum

Funny Clowns

Original Author Unknown

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
How to Use the Graphic Organizer

Use the graphic organizer (see below) to write down main findings of your research about the traditions and history of circus music. In each numbered square, write down the name of the website or book you looked up. Use the square on the right to record the main information you found.

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