“How To” @Home for Mom & Dad

Activity 11: After My Circus Leaves . . .

In Brief: Write/dictate a letter or tell someone stories about your circus experiences

Objectives: Organize thoughts and reflect on your experiences during the creation of the circus activities.

Materials: A copy of the visuals you created, paper, pencil or recording device. Images and objects from the circus to spark memories.

Preparation: Make a mind map (see below) to write notes about all of your circus activities. Gather images and objects from the circus.

Focus: You can use the graphic organizer to compile and organize your memories as you tell your stories or write them on paper.

With/for Your Child: Engage!

Get Ready. Review with your child the Brainstorming Packet After My Circus Leaves. Read the Telling your story starter (see below)

Step 1. Reflect, remember and collect your memories to make a list of your circus journey. Tip: use the mind map template from previous activities or make your own.

Step 2. Reflect on each activity you did. Pick key words to express your feelings about each activity (fun, colorful, intriguing, interesting ...).

Step 3. Use the key words you chose and the images, visuals, print outs you gathered and make a vision board out of it (see activity 3. Clown Costume). Tip: you can cut out images from your documents, make drawings, collect images/words from magazines and print out new images. Put everything you picked together to create a visual memory of your circus journey!

Step 4. Present your circus vision board to a family member or a friend: tell them what you picked, why, what you wanted to illustrate etc.

Follow up and Extensions: Time to act! If you are fond of visual arts, drama, acting... This is your chance to make a video recording of your circus vision board presentation. You can:

1. Ask the person you are presenting to if you can record your voices while talking or record of video of your conversation.
2. Make an animated video or voice recording of yourself talking about your vision board.

**Mind Mapping Your Memories**

Your mind map lists each of your circus activities. Check if you have a picture, image or object for the activities. Note how you feel about each activity: glad, sad, mad, bored, or excited. Would you do this activity again? What would you do differently next time?

*Telling your story after my circus leaves town . . .*

Imagine . . . the grass is flattened and there is some litter scattered around. How are you feeling? Recall all that you did at your circus. What stands out for you about the circus: What surprised you? What puzzled you? How do you feel about each activity?

What would you do differently if you were in the Big Top tent a second time?

Back at home you decide to write a letter (or tell, or call) to someone so you can tell them all about your circus experiences. Can you decorate your letter with drawings or pictures of things that are most memorable? The music? The clown costumes? The elephants? The trained dogs or Big Cats? Maybe the acrobats? Or the Big Top tent? What surprised you? What would you like to do next?