Activity 4: Clown Face Painting

In Brief: Imagine and draw your own clown face that is a unique circus character

Objectives: Your child will use a vision board to design a clown face that expresses a character with color, shapes, facial features and design elements.

Background: Clowns are essential parts of a circus and help to define its character and the audience’s experience, e.g., joyous, silly, tricky, acrobatic, dangerous, sad, daring, an animal, etc. The design elements (colors, facial features, etc.) of the clown’s face are essential elements that communicate each clown’s character.

Material: Markers, pencil, eraser, paper, face paint, images of clowns, etc.

Preparation: Gather the materials needed in a space where your child can work on paper and vision board to sketch a clown face and then a chair and mirror where the actual face painting can happen. Find examples of clown faces for inspiration.

Focus: What elements should be included in the clown’s face that express their unique personality, character or feelings: Bold colors? Shapes? Whole face covering? exaggerated facial features: lips, ears, nose, chin, forehead, hair, etc.?

With/for Your Child: Engage!

Get ready! Review the Brainstorming Packet for Topic 4 & examples of clown faces.

Step 1. On a blank piece of paper write key words describing your character that will guide your design: happy, sad, silly, scary, fierce, etc. Imagine the shape of your face to help you decide which of your sketches will work the best for your unique face and your clown character. Using a a few blank face silhouettes quickly sketch and color a few of your ideas.

Step 2. Make a vision board to help finalize your face paint design plan.

Step 3. Pick your favorite sketch and create your final version—on the paper and perhaps on your own face!

Tip: Think about the use of symmetry, color & bold colors to create a powerful face
Follow up and Extensions: Change your clown’s character (i.e., from happy to sad; silly to serious) and experiment with different face designs to show this expression.

EXAMPLES