“How to” @ Home for Mom & Dad

Circus Activity 1: Create Your Circus Program and/or Poster!

In Brief: The goal is to create a program and/or poster that suits your particular circus.

Objectives: This activity helps identify and use elements of creative writing (metaphors, tone, persuasion) joined with artwork, whether selected or created, to attract an audience to your circus. The illustration can also serve as a poster.

Background: Circuses can have different programs depending on the artists’ talents and the atmosphere it is looking to share (Is it a “fun” circus full of clowns? Are there trained animals? Or skilled and daring acrobats? Dancers? Magic acts?).

Material: Paper, colored pens, markers or paints.

Preparation: What does your child already know about the circus? If you’ve gone to a circus what memories does your child have? What kind of circus does your child dream about and can perform? Guiding questions: What artists would you like in your circus? What is the atmosphere you want to create? Imagine names for each of your performers to find inspiration. See Brainstorming Packet.

Focus: Write short and clear labels and statements. Think about the musicality of the words you use.

With/for your kid: Get Ready! Review the Brainstorming Packet for topic #1 and sample posters.

Step 1. Make a list of the acts you’d like to have in your circus. Use unique names to spark people’s curiosity or make them laugh (Leon the Lion Tamer, Stretch the Clown, Willy the Wizard). You can do online research about “famous circus performers” for inspiration.

Step 2. Think about the best order for your performances. What would make the most sense? What would make people stay until the end?

Step 3. You are all set to make a program! Use performers’ names and the order of your circus acts.

Step 4. Make or find pictures that go with your circus acts and arrange them to illustrate your circus. Consider images, shapes and colors that are visually exciting.
When you are done: **Reflect:** Record your reflections on page 6 of your Brainstorming Packet.

**Extensions:** Discuss final program & poster with your child and how they relate to school subjects (language arts & art class).

**RESOURCES**

- See samples below.
- https://www.pinterest.com/pin/36155467630554464/ - samples of vintage posters
- https://www.pinterest.com/hawhawjames/circus-posters/ - samples of posters
- https://www.etsy.com/market/circus_programs - circus programs
- https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Browse/Search:circus%20program - paid resources
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