Activity 3: Design a Clown Costume

In Brief: Design a personalized clown costume that expresses a unique character.

Objectives: By the end of the activity, your child will use a vision board to design a clown costume that expresses a unique personality, character or feelings.

Background: Clowns are essential parts of a circus and help to define its character and the audience’s experience, e.g., joyous, flippant, tricky, acrobatic, dangerous, sad, daring, frightful, etc. The design elements (colors, shapes, fabric, etc.) of the clown’s costume are essential elements that communicate each clown’s character.

Material: Markers, pencil, eraser, ruler, paper, fabric, images from magazines, etc.

Preparation: Gather the material needed and find a space where your child can lay everything down (a large table, your desk, a rug somewhere in the house).

Focus: What elements should be included in the clown’s style that express their unique personality or feelings: **Bold colors? Polka dots? Stripes? Floppy hat?**

With/for Your Child: Engage!

Get Ready! Review **Brainstorming Packet** for Topic 2 and samples of clown costumes.

Step 1. Make a vision board. Use a blank piece of paper and write key words that will guide your design, paste pieces of fabric that you want to use, draw lines/shapes with the colors you like?

Step 2. Make sketches to try out a few combinations of colors, fabrics, etc. to see which one you like best.

Step 3. Pick your favorite sketch and create your final version!

Tip: *Use your brainstorming packet to guide your project.*

Follow up and Extensions:  A clown’s “character” is defined by the story they tell or represent in behavior and their “act”. Imagine the history and story behind your own clown. Draw a clown wearing your design in a circus tent and/or try and replicate the outfit you created with your own clothes!