



LIFE'S A CIRCUS

Circus Themed programming

Step right up and join the fun under the big top! This circus themed programme is filled with creative crafts, playful games and exciting activities inspired by clowns, jugglers and circus performers.

INTRO

Roll up, roll up! The circus has come to town. This circus theme brings the excitement of the big top into your programme with crafts, games and playful activities inspired by clowns, jugglers and performers.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Inside you'll find crafts, games and activities to help bring your circus theme to life. Adapt them to suit your group and enjoy the show!



SCHEDULE

The schedule is a vital part of any programme. Use the link to the right to download an excel sheet for a five-day schedule that can be edited/adjusted to suit your needs.

We encourage you to use 'flexi-cruise' mode: if the children are enjoying an activity then let it run longer!

Schedule link [here](#)

Programme			
Day 1			
Time	Activity	Notes	Link
8:30 - 9:00am	Free time activities	Free time activities can including colouring pages, wordfinds, small games etc. Link for printables	Link Here
9:00 - 9:30am	Roll call / Freetime Activities		
9:30 - 10:00am	Clown Parade Dash	(Egg and Spoon Race) Change the item to a 'circus prop' like a beanbag or juggling ball. link for instructions	Link Here
10:00 - 10:30am	Morning Tea		
10:30 - 11:00am	Free time activities (while setting up for craft)	Free time activities can including colouring pages, wordfinds, small games etc. Link for printables	Link Here
11:00 - 11:30am			
11:30am - Noon	Balancing Clown Craft	Link for instructions	Link Here
Noon - 12:30pm			
12:30 - 1:00pm	Lunch		
1:00 - 1:30pm	Free time activities / playground time	Free time activities can including colouring pages, wordfinds, small games etc. Link for printables	Link Here
1:30 - 2:00pm	Ringmaster Says	(Simon Says) Change "Simon" to the Ringmaster and add circus actions like juggle. link for instructions	Link Here
2:00 - 2:30pm	Juggler Relay	(Pass the Water) Change the cups to represent juggling props being passed along the line. Link for instructions	Link Here
2:30 - 3:00pm	Spotlight Freeze	(Musical Statues) Change the poses to circus ones like clown, acrobat or strongman. link for instructions	Link Here
3:00 - 3:30pm	Afternoon tea		
3:30 - 4:00pm	Circus Sketch Off	(Pictionary) Change the items to be drawn to circus themed ones like clowns, tents or lions. link for instructions	Link Here
4:00 - 4:30pm	Magic Showdown	(Wizards Duel) Change the duel to circus magicians competing along the track. Link for instructions	Link Here
4:30 - 5:00pm			
5:00 - 5:30pm	Free time activities	Free time activities can including colouring pages, wordfinds, small games etc. Link for printables	Link Here
5:30 - 6:00pm			
Notes			



CUSTOMISABLE PLANNER

Spread the word! The planner provides a format to advertise your programme

Often programmes have their own templates, or you can use this link to an editable PowerPoint planner. We have set up a whole week theme. If you prefer just a themed day, then mix it up how you like.

[Planner link here](#)

June 2026 Programme

Monday
BALANCING CLOWN
Create a fun circus clown that rocks and balances as it moves.

Tuesday
CIRCUS TENT
Design and build your very own colourful circus big top.

Wednesday
CLOWN CUPCAKES
Bake and decorate silly clown cupcakes with sweet toppings.

Thursday
JUGGLING BALLS
Make your own juggling balls and learn circus tricks.

Friday
CIRCUS TRIP
Let's head off and enjoy a fun-filled day at the circus.

Monday
SHADOW THEATRE
Create shadow theatre and bring circus stories to life.

Tuesday
CARNIVAL MASKS
Design colourful carnival masks for circus fun and dress-ups.

Wednesday
STRONGMAN WEIGHTS
Make heavy strongman weights inspired by the circus.

Thursday
PHOTO PROPS
Make silly circus photo props for fun pictures and games.

Friday
MOVIES TRIP
Time to go see the newest movie!

Costs: \$45 per day (additional \$20 in trip days).
Venue: Beachlands Intermediate School, 23 crest road, Beachlands.

Hours: Available hours 8:30 – 5:30pm
To book or for more information visit www.funkidz.co.nz

CRAFTS



BALANCING CLOWN

Create a clown that balances on its nose

[Instructions found here](#)



BIG TOP CIRCUS TENT

Turn a paper cup into a striped circus tent

[Instructions found here](#)



JUGGLING BALLS

Make colourful juggling balls from balloons and rice.

[Instructions found here](#)



SHADOW THEATRE

Create a theatre and perform your own shadow circus

[Instructions found here](#)



CARNIVAL MASKS

Use the template to make a card base and decorate with embellishments

[Instructions found here](#)



PHOTO PROPS

Kebab sticks and some card cutouts to make fun photoshoot accessories

[Instructions found here](#)





GAMES

STEP RIGHT UP TO PLAY

It only takes a little imagination to give a game a circus twist.

Balls or beanbags can become juggling props.

Hoops or cones can become circus rings or big top tents.

Players can act as performers, animals or ringmasters.

In the same way, you can link classic games into any theme. Follow the clickable links for game instructions.

- Clown Parade Dash ([Egg and Spoon Race](#))
 - Ringmaster Says ([Simon Says](#))
 - Pass the popcorn ([Pass the Water](#))
 - Spotlight Freeze ([Musical Statues](#))
 - Circus Sketch Off ([Pictionary](#))
 - Magic Showdown ([Wizards Duel](#))
 - Ring Toss Challenge ([Target Toss](#))
 - Big Top Corners ([Four Corners](#))
 - Blindfolded Tightrope Walk ([Guided Obstacle Course](#))
 - Create a Circus Star ([Build a Character](#))
 - Blindfolded Clown Drawing ([Blind Drawing Challenge](#))
 - Don't Drop the Popcorn ([Numbers Ball](#))
 - Smelly Clown Nose ([Hot Potato](#))
 - Marble Circus Roll ([Marbles](#))
 - Circus Sprint ([Red Light Green Light](#))
- See schedule for more games [here](#)





AFTERNOON TEA FRIENDLY



POPCORN CUPS

Fill colourful cups with popcorn for a classic circus snack everyone loves.



LION VEGGIE PLATE

Arrange veggie sticks around dip to create a lion face.

BAKING DAYS



CLOWN CUPCAKES

Decorate cupcakes with icing and sweets to create funny clown faces.



STRONGMAN WEIGHTS

Chocolate dipped marshmallows on the ends of a pretzel stick





Printable activities are handy time fillers that can also link to a theme. There are many online resources but [here](#) are some to get you started. Clickable links below

Join the dots



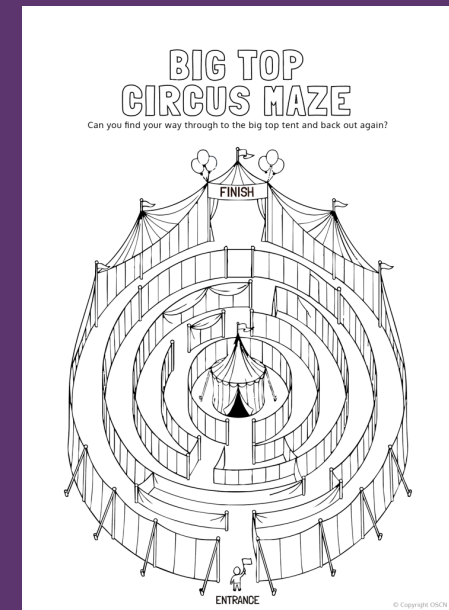
Wordfind



Colouring in



Mazes



A BIT EXTRA

TRIP IDEAS



Visit a local park for a “circus day” with outdoor games and performances. Another option is inviting a local performer, magician or juggler to demonstrate skills.

STAFF INPUT



Encourage staff to join the fun by dressing as circus characters such as ringmasters, clowns or magicians.

Staff could also help run a short talent show where children perform tricks, jokes or circus skills.

ADDED EXTRAS



Circus Decorations

Decorate the space like a big top using red and white stripes, bunting and circus act posters.

Circus Skills Station

Set up activity areas where children can try juggling scarves, balance challenges or simple acrobat skills.