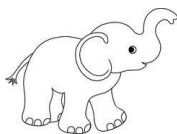


# SPARK CIRCUS



**Use as a spree, sleepover or day camp**



## Planning the Day

**When:** Whenever you decide works best for your group. Use the kit as a daycamp, spree or a sleepover.

**Time:** This package is set up like a 2 hour event in a round robin style. You can adjust as needed. There are many activity suggestions you choose which ones best suit your group.

**Theme:** ***Spark Circus***

**Who:** Sparks!!!

- The number of participants for your event should be based on what is comfortable and sensible for your sparks and you.
- You can do this as a unit or get together with another unit. You may even consider having a bridging event.
- You could have the sparks invite their families or maybe have them bring a friend.
- You will need to make sure ratio is covered and that you have enough adults to work each round robin station.

**Where:** That depends on you. Have it outdoors or in. Make sure your location is large enough to have the space to have all the activities and accommodate the number of people you have invited.

### Health and Safety

- Be sure to use Safe Guide in planning the event. Be sure to fill out all appropriate forms and make sure they are sent in early enough to have time to be assessed.
- Once you have all the details be sure to send a note home including a permission slip.
- Keep all your permission forms and health forms with you at the event in the first aid kit where they are secure and accessible during the day.

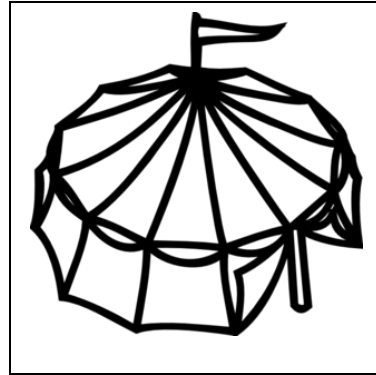
**Cost:** depending on your Unit finances, you may need to charge each spark a nominal fee to defray the day's expenses.

## Activity Planning

If the number of sparks you have coming is less than 12 you may chose to do activities all together in consecutive order as opposed to a round robin.

*Here is a suggested outline for a smaller event*

10 min Opening/ gathering activity  
20 min activity  
20 min activity  
20 min snack  
20 min activity  
20 min activity  
10 min closing



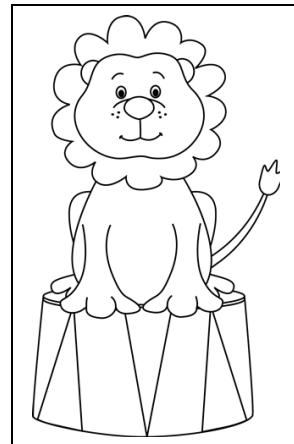
If the number of sparks you have is larger more around 20-50 you will want to use this round robin format. This is where a small group of girls and adults move from one activity station to another.

*Here is a suggested outline for a larger event*

10 min Opening/ gathering activity (name tags and group designation)  
20 min round robin activity 1  
20 min round robin activity 2  
20 min round robin activity 3  
20 min round robin activity 4  
20 min round robin activity 5  
10 min closing- everyone together

One of the round robin stations will be a snack station in this format.

## Opening Activities



You can use the shapes for name tags provided in this package or create your own.

Name tags are an easy way for everyone to see where they belong and needed when everyone does not know each other.

Have everyone gather in a circle. Welcome everyone to the event explain the plan for the day. If there is time sing a fun action song or two.

## Suggested activities for Group or Round Robin Sessions

### **ACTIVE GAMES**

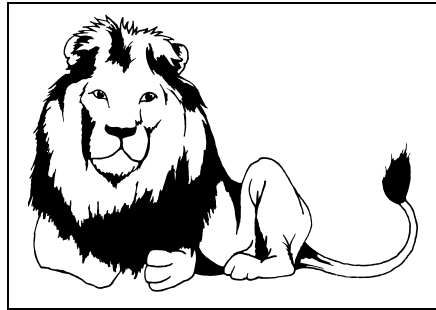
#### **Lion Tamer Game!**

##### **What You'll Need:**

- A Large Hula Hoop

##### **How to play:**

1. One player is selected to be the "lion tamer." The other players are the "lions."
2. To start, the lion tamer holds the hula hoop at ground level while each of the lions steps through it.
3. During the next round, the lion tamer raises the hoop slightly, and the lions must climb through it again.
4. Play continues in this way until one or more of the lions cannot make it through the hoop.
5. The last lion in the game becomes the new lion tamer, and the game starts over again.
6. Play as many rounds as desired.



### **ANIMAL HUNT**

##### **What you'll need:**

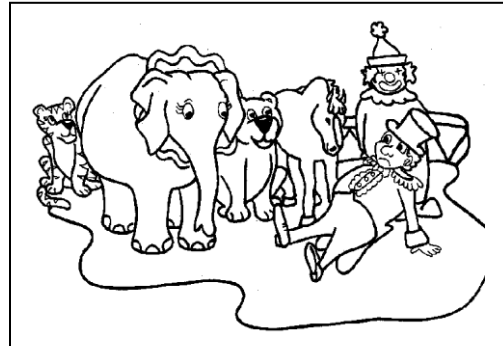
- Several Bags
- Animal Crackers OR Plastic Animal Toys

##### **Preparation:**

Hide animal crackers or plastic animals around the playing area.

##### **How to play:**

1. Divide your guests into teams of 3 or 4.
2. Each team selects a circus character with an identifiable sound-for example clowns laugh, lions roar, and Ring Masters say "Ladies and Gentlemen!"
3. Each team picks one person to be the captain.
4. The captain is given a bag to collect the crackers or toy animals since captains are the only players allowed to pick up the animals.



5. If a non-captain player finds an animal, he/she has to make the team's selected character noise (e.g. roar if a lion) to signal the captain to collect the animal.
6. However, another team's captain may take that animal if he/she gets to it first.
7. Set a time limit of 5 to 10 minutes, and then say, "Go!" The team with the most animals at the end of the time limit wins.
8. If desired, let the players keep the animals they collect.

## **PEANUT RELAY RACE**

### **What You'll Need:**

- A bag of unshelled peanuts
- Packing peanuts if you have an allergy
- Spoons (optional)

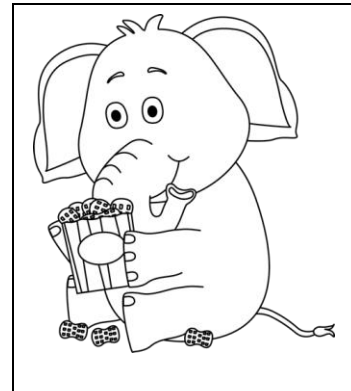
### **Indoor Preparation:**

Mark two goal lines 8'-10' apart on a carpeted surface.

### **How to play:**

1. Divide the children into teams.
2. Have each team line up, single-file, behind the starting line, and hand every player a peanut.
3. The first player in each line must get on his/her hands and knees, and then set his/her peanut on the starting line.
4. To start, each front player must push his/her peanut to the finish line using only his/her nose.
5. When a player reaches the finish line, an adult signals the next player in line to go.
6. The first team to get all their peanuts across the finish line wins!

If you do not have a carpeted surface you may wish to play this relay using spoons to carry the peanuts.



## **RINGMASTER MAY I?**

Played just like Mother May I? The "Ringmaster" stands at opposite sides of a room from the rest of the Sparks.. The first Spark ask if she may: take so may step forward. i.e.

"Mother may I please take 3 baby steps forward?" the answer would be either, "Yes you may," or "No, you may not." The Spark wins when she reaches the "Ringmaster".

Encourage the use of descriptive words, such as little, big, huge, tiny, and giant.

## **UNDER THE BIG TOP**

### **What You'll Need:**

- A Large Play Parachute

### **Preparation:**

Rent or borrow a large play parachute. Often schools and children's recreation centers have them on hand.

### **At the Party:**

1. Spread the parachute on the ground in a large, flat circle.
2. Have the girls circle the parachute and grab its edges.
3. Make sure everyone is evenly distributed around the edge of the parachute.
4. Have everyone raise and lower the parachute simultaneously.
5. Once the parachute is raised and fully billowed, have everyone sit down on the inside edges. This should keep the parachute inflated, creating a tent.
6. Once everyone is inside the circus tent you start saying statements like “everyone who likes elephants switch places and those girls will run across under the parachute to a new spot. Once the tent starts to fall you can all get up make another tent and try again.

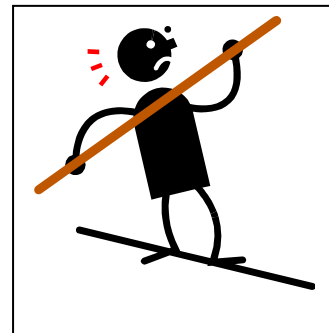
## **WALKING THE TIGHTROPE**

### **What You'll Need:**

- A 2 x 4 Piece of Wood
- An Umbrella
- A Book

### **At the Party:**

1. Lay the 2 x 4 on the floor or grass.
2. You can play by elimination or simply by letting the children take turns. Either way, the girls must try to walk across the 2 x 4 without stepping on the ground.
3. On the first trip across, the girls should walk while holding an umbrella.
4. On the second trip, they should walk while balancing a book on their heads.
5. On the third trip, they must hold the umbrella AND the book.

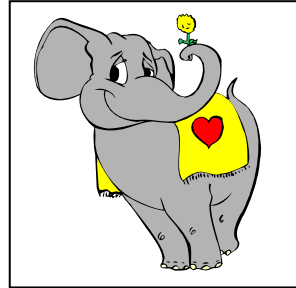


## **ELEPHANT LOG ROLL**

### You'll need:

- Empty Potato chip tubes

### What to do:



1. A girl pretends to be an elephant by pushing a "log" with his/her nose while crawling on all fours.
2. Another child acts as trainer, walking alongside the first, to help retrieve stray logs and encourage the elephant.
3. The girls then switch roles. If more than one elephant goes at a time, mark lanes with masking tape, and mark a beginning and a finish line.
4. At the finish line, partners trade rolls and backtrack to the beginning. (You may want to split into teams for a race. Or have a relay race, with each team having one log to roll.)

## **Science Activities**

### **BALANCING CLOWN**

Go to the following website [http://www.primaryscience.ie/media/pdfs/col/acrobatic\\_clown.pdf](http://www.primaryscience.ie/media/pdfs/col/acrobatic_clown.pdf). You can print off the template on cardstock and follow the directions. An experiment in the center of gravity.

### **DANCING POPCORN**

#### You'll need:

- Water
- Plastic cup, bottle or jar
- Unpopped popcorn
- 1 teaspoon
- 1 tablespoon
- Sodium Bicarbonate (baking soda)
- Vinegar

### **What to do:**

1. Fill the plastic cup with water until it is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full
2. Measure half a teaspoon of sodium bicarbonate.
3. Add the sodium bicarbonate to the water and stir until it has dissolved.
4. Add 4 kernels of popcorn to the cup.
5. Add 1 tablespoon of vinegar to the cup.
6. Watch closely.

*Why is this happening?*

The kernels of popcorn sink to the bottom at first, but bubbles are created because of the vinegar and sodium bicarbonate, so the kernels move up and down with the bubbles.

## **BALLOON SCIENCE**

### **What You Need:**

- Balloons
- Narrow funnel
- 1 tablespoon (15mL) active dry yeast
- 1 teaspoon (5 mL) sugar
- Measuring spoons
- Measuring cup
- Warm water
- Ruler

### **What You Do:**

1. Place the bottom of a funnel into the opening of the balloon. You may need to stretch the opening of the balloon a little bit so that it fits.
2. Help a girl pour the yeast and the sugar into the balloon through the funnel. Then fill the measuring cup with warm water from the sink and carefully pour the water into the balloon.
3. Remove the funnel from the opening of the balloon. Tie a knot in the balloon to keep the water-and-yeast mixture inside. Measure your balloon.
4. Place the balloon in a warm place and wait. Measure your balloon again.

Now watch and wait as the balloon gets bigger and bigger. Explain to the girls that although it seems like magic, it's science. The yeast uses the sugar and warm water to grow, and as it grows it expands and gets bubbly. By being "bubbly" the yeast gives off carbon dioxide, the same gas that your body produces when you breathe, and the gas inflates the balloon.



## Drama Activities

### **CIRCUS CHARADES**

#### You'll need:

To print off the game cards in the back of this package.

#### How to play:

Once you have the cards printed off and cut up place them in a bag. Have the girls one at a time And pull out a card they then act out their animal, person or thing and act it out. The other girls try to guess what they are. Once it is figured out have another girl have a turn.

### **UNDER THE BIG TOP**

**Read the following poem and have the girls act it out after they know it. Have them come up with their own actions and expressions.**

Under the Big Top, what will I see?  
Look there's an elephant smiling at me.  
Behind the elephant, what will I see?  
Look there's a bear dancing for me.  
Behind the bear, what will I see?  
Look a wild lion is roaring at me.  
Behind the lion, what will I see?  
A little seal doing tricks for me.

### **CIRCUS ELEPHANT FINGER PLAY**

A circus elephant I went to see (Hold hand over eyes like binoculars)  
He had four legs and was bigger than me. (Hold up four fingers and then point to self)  
He had two ears big and round (Show two fingers and make a circle with hands)  
And one long nose that made a sound errrrr (Make elephant trunk with arm)

## Songs and Rhythm activities

### **FUNNY CLOWN**

Tune of: "Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around"

Funny clown, funny clown,  
Spin around.  
Funny clown, funny clown  
Jump up and down  
Funny clown, funny clown,  
Touch your toes.  
Funny clown, funny clown  
Honk your nose.

### **LET'S GO TO THE CIRCUS**

(Sung To: "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Let's all go to the circus today  
The circus today, the circus today  
Let's all go to the circus, today  
And watch a big parade

See the clowns all tumbling around,  
tumbling around, tumbling around  
See the clowns all tumbling around  
In the circus ring.

Lions and tigers jumping through hoops  
Jumping through hoops, jumping through hoops  
Lions and tigers jumping through hoops  
In the circus ring.

The prancing horses step so high,  
Step so high, step so high.  
The prancing horses step so high  
In the circus ring.

# **WALKING THROUGH THE CIRCUS**

(Sung To: "I've Been Working on the Railroad")

I am walking through the circus (walk in place)  
Happy as can be (smile real big)  
I am walking through the circus (walk in place)  
Just to see, what I can see (make binoculars with hands)  
I can see the clowns all laughing (ha, ha, ha)  
I can see the elephant, too (make trunk motion)  
I can see the lion sleeping (yawn)  
Look out (make binoculars with hands)... because he sees you too

## **Crafts**

### **CLOWN PAPER PLATES**

#### **You'll need:**

- Paper plates, yarn or shredded color paper,
- tissue paper, googly eyes, pipe cleaners
- Markers, or paint glue



#### **What to do:**

Attach a Popsicle stick to the back of a paper plate. Attach a slightly inflated balloon to the center of the plate for the nose. Allow the children to decorate the plate with markers, paint, yarn or googly eyes. Add tissue paper to the Popsicle stick for a bow tie.

### **CIRCUS SCRATCH ART**

In your kit you were given scratch art. All the girls do is scratch of in whatever design they want. Add a string and hey can hang it up.

# **JUMBO CLOWN TIE**

## **You'll need:**

- Bristol Board, Markers, hole punch and wool

## **What to do:**

Precut some large ties for each girl. Have the girls decorate the ties and then tie them on by punching a hole in the top and adding some wool to go around their neck. Then the girls will have part of a clown costume.

## **Snacks**

### **CLOWN ICE CREAM**



Make clown heads using scoops of bright orange or raspberry sherbet topped with sugar cone "hats" surrounded by rings of icing "ruffles." Make faces using round, red candy for the noses (try gumballs), M&Ms for the eyes, and red licorice strings for the mouths. It is best to make the balls of ice cream ahead of time and freeze them in a ball to give the girls a bit more time to decorate and then eat!

### **TRADITIONAL CIRCUS FARE**

Offer food the girls might find at the circus, such as corn dogs, cotton candy, popcorn, cracker jacks, pretzels, peanuts in the shell, lemonade, and cola or root beer floats.



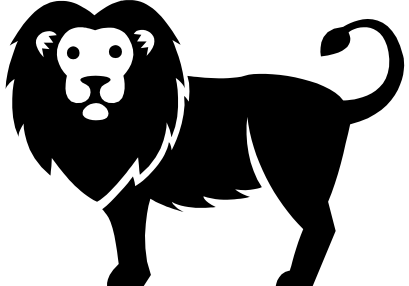
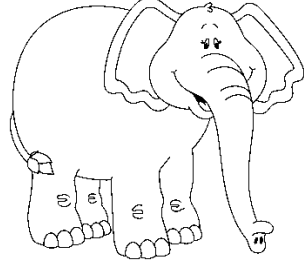



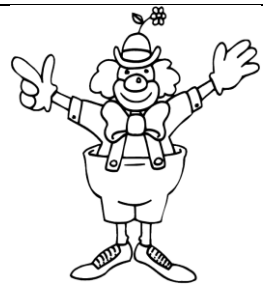
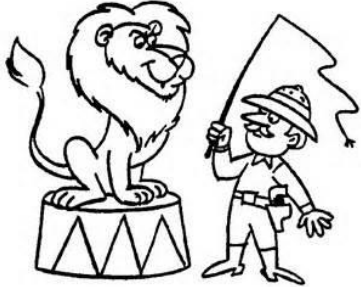

### **ANIMAL CRACKERS**

Serve animal crackers right out of the box!

### **CLOWN FACES**

Use a canned peach half for the face, half of a marachino cherry for the nose, raisins for the eyes and the mouth, colored mini marshmallows for his collar and tint some coconut orange for his hair (or shredded carrot or cheese)... Other bits of fruit or veggies could be used for the features

## Circus Charade Cards

 <p>A line drawing of a ringmaster wearing a top hat, a suit, and a bow tie, holding a long whip.</p>	 <p>A line drawing of three people performing on a tightrope. One person is walking, another is balancing on a bicycle, and a third is walking behind them.</p>
 <p>A solid black silhouette of a lion standing and facing left.</p>	 <p>A line drawing of an elephant standing and facing right.</p>
 <p>A line drawing of a fire eater wearing a headband and a skirt, holding a flaming torch in one hand and eating from it with the other.</p>	 <p>A line drawing of a juggler wearing a ruffled outfit, balancing several balls on their hands.</p>
 <p>A line drawing of a seal sitting up and balancing a ball on its nose.</p>	 <p>A line drawing of a clown wearing a ruffled outfit and a hat with a pom-pom, making a peace sign with one hand.</p>
 <p>A line drawing of a lion tamer wearing a hat and holding a flag, standing next to a lion sitting on a drum.</p>	 <p>A line drawing of a dog sitting on a stool and balancing a ball on its nose.</p>

## Name tag Template

Copy on different colors of paper for different groups. Write name and use a small safety pin to pin on shirt or hat. If you are putting them on a hat you may want to laminate them so the girls have them on their hats for years to come.

