

Circus Tricks!



Passing
the
Baton

Circus Tricks
Activity Pack

This Activity Pack supports the animated Circus Tricks videos,
links to these and other supporting materials inside.





Welcome to Circus Tricks!

Circus Tricks is aimed at children and young people with learning disabilities.

In this pack you will meet the circus characters and the artists who created them!

How to enjoy Circus Tricks:

- ★ Take a look through this Activity Pack and check you have all the resources you will need.
- ★ Find 'Circus Tricks: Animated Series' on YouTube. Each of our circus characters has their very own cartoon to be enjoyed alongside their page in the Activity Pack.
- ★ You will also find a series of Supporting Videos created by our Young Leaders on YouTube with additional activities and exercises!



All the videos are on DIY Theatre Company's You Tube Channel.
They are split into 2 areas:



Animated Series



<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOLeEjFuonapkyX2x1PlKSoBLEJlzHwUX>



Supporting Videos



https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOLeEjFuonar87zblWe_Yk9y5BU1Pis8c





We hope you have fun, make some noise, and enjoy Circus Tricks!

Each person will need:

- ★ A pair of drumsticks or wooden spoons / pens / chopsticks
- ★ A circus silk or a piece of material such as a tea-towel or flannel
- ★ A shaker (these can be made by putting some rice in an empty water bottle and screwing the lid on tight)
- ★ A junk percussion (anything you can find in your home or classroom that makes some noise and you have permission to use).

Additional Resources:

Additional downloadable sheets, a PDF version of this booklet and links to all the videos can be found on DIY's website:

Go to www.diytheatre.org.uk, find the 'How to take part' area and look for '**Circus Tricks Resources**'.
Or use the link below.



[www.diytheatre.org.uk/
how-to-take-part/
circus-tricks-resources/](http://www.diytheatre.org.uk/how-to-take-part/circus-tricks-resources/)

Meet all of the characters:



Circus Samba Band

Lets make some noise with the Circus Samba Band.



Our Circus Samba Band uses 'Junk Percussion' to make noise.

- Have a look around your home / classroom for anything that will make an interesting noise. You can use drumsticks, wooden spoons, pens or your hands to make some noise.



Watch the video:
Circus Samba Band
and see if you can join in the Samba band rhythm:

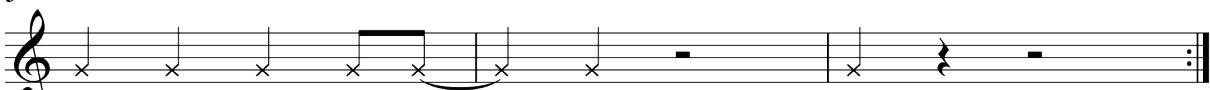
'Welcome to the Circus'

Welcome to the Circus

Welcome to the Circus

Stop!

Voice 
Wel-come to the cir - cus, Wel-come to the cir - cus,

Voice 
Wel - come to the cir - cus STOP!

Freestyle –
Make as much noise as you want in any rhythm!



Scott Lawrie



Hello! I'm the Ringmaster and my job is to keep the rest of the circus people in check!

Scott the Ringmaster!

Craft Activity:

Make a Ribbon Stick!

Participating Schools will find a 'Ribbon Stick' in each student's pack, with a selection of different ribbons.

★ Please cut the ribbon to the desired length then attach it by tying a firm knot through the metal clasp at the end of the stick.

! Or, you can make Ribbon Sticks from things you will find at home or school.



★ You will need a **stick** (a lollipop stick, a wooden spoon, or pencil will do) and **ribbon** – any length, but the longer the stick, the longer the ribbon can be!



★ Tie the ribbon in a knot around the stick. It's best to tie use 2 or 3 knots so it is really secure!

Music Activity:

Learn the lyrics to the 'Welcome to the Circus' Song:

Welcome to the Circus!

Fun & Sparkly Bright

Circus Tricks to Blow Your Mind

What a Magic Sight!



Watch the video:

Scott the Ringmaster & Welcome to the Circus and join in!

Voice

Piano

Chords: C, C/B, Am, C/G, C, C/B, Am, C/G

Voice

Pno.

Chords: F, F, G, G, F, G, C

Use your ribbon stick to dance and make movements like me!

- ★ Can you take your ribbon stick round in circles?
- ★ Can you make a figure 8 shape?
- ★ Can your ribbon stick dance in time to the music?

Extra Activity:

Learn the Actions!



Watch this video:

Welcome to the Circus Actions

to learn the BSL inspired actions to our 'Welcome to the Circus' song.

- ★ Can you join in with our actors?



Amy Carter

Lexi the Juggler

Hi, My name's Lexi.
I'm a Juggler.

I like to juggle
with juggling silks.



Music Activity:
Learn the lyrics to my song:
The Silks are going Up & Up!
The Silks are going Down & Down!
The Silks are going to the Left!
The Silks are going to the Right!

Partner Activity:

- For this activity you will need some juggling silks. Or you could use a piece of fabric like a scarf or tea towel.



Watch the video:
Lexi the Juggler

Can you move your silk along with me?

Find a partner and a musical instrument – like a shaker or a bell.

One person takes the Juggling Silk.

The other person plays the instrument.

- Can you play the musical instrument when the silk is thrown up in the air?
- Can you keep the music instrument silent when the silk is in your partners hand?

Sensory Activity:

Take notice of the feel of the fabric against your skin.

- What happens when you put the fabric in front of your face?
- How does the fabric feel in between your fingers?
- What is like to throw the fabric in the air and watch as it slowly lands?

Drama Activity:

This is not a Silk.

Use your imagination and some Circus Magic to transform the Juggling Silk into any object you can think of.

Here are some of my favourite examples:

- This is not a silk, this is a jelly fish!
- This is not a silk, this is fire!
- This is not a silk, this is the sea!

Have a go with a partner or working in small groups!

Voice

Piano

The silks are go-ing up and up,
The silks are go-ing to the left,
The silks are go-ing down and down
The silks are go-ing to the right

G D G D



Mike Corfield

Bob the Strong Man



The Strongman uses Junk Percussion to make music, so please find your drumsticks (or wooden spoons / chopsticks or pens) and have a look around your classroom or home for anything else that you can make noise with. For example, the back of a chair, an empty water bottle, a shaker or a saucepan. Make sure you ask the owner if it's OK to use first!

Clapping your hands and stamping your feet are also great instruments!

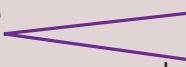
Music Activity:



Watch my video: **Bob the Strongman**

I am using musical dynamics. This is the musical word for 'volume'. We can play LOUD (forte) and SOFT (piano).

What happens when I lift my weights higher?

The  noise gets louder.
This is called a crescendo.

What happens when I drop my weight lower?

 The noise gets quieter.
This is called a diminuendo.

Partner Activity:

- Find a partner. You will need something to make noise with. One person should play the role of the Strong Man.
- ★ As they lift their drumstick (or their hand) really high above their head, their partner should play louder and louder until they are playing as loudly as they can!
- ★ When the Strong Man drops their drumstick (or hand) low to the ground, their partner should play quieter and quieter, or softer and softer until they are silent.

Take it in turns to be the 'Strong Man'

Sensory Activity:

For participating schools, you can use the LED finger lights in your Resource Pack to create a sensory activity. (Be advised these have small parts that can become disconnected.)

Place them on the end of your finger and turn off the lights.

- ★ You can make a magical light show for your partner - or repeat the Partner Exercise - this time in the dark using the lights!

At DIY we have also tried putting the finger lights on the end of our drumsticks to make a magical music and light show - be aware however - hitting the drumsticks too hard can cause the LED lights to fly off!



Jim the Joker

Charlotte Little

Hi I'm Jim the Joker.
The way I communicate
is by using tongue
twisters and body
percussion.

Team Building Activity:

Download the
Joker Activity
from our website.



www.diytheatre.org.uk/how-to-take-part/circus-tricks-resources/

- * In groups of 5, each person should take a different letter and decorate it.
- * Once all of the letters have been completed, the group should line up in the correct order, displaying their letters to spell the word JOKER.



If there is more than one team, you can run this as a competition – which group will line up in the correct order first?

Music Activity 1:

Learn the words to my tongue twister:

Jumping

Joker

Juggling

Jelly



Watch my video:
Jim the Joker to see me using body percussion, have a go at joining in!

Body percussion is a way of making sounds using your body.

How many different sounds can you make using your body?

Can you:

- ★ Clap your hands?
- ★ Tap your feet?
- ★ Click your fingers?
- ★ Click your tongue?

Music Activity 2:

The joker likes to use funny sounds.

Participating schools will find communication switches as part of the teachers resource pack. Otherwise you can use your phone, tablet or other device to record sounds.

Think about what funny, silly or strange sounds you can record.

- ★ They may be sounds that you can make with your mouth or body or sounds that you hear around you.

Additional Resources:

Chetham's School of Music have some great tongue twisters that you can try at home.

Thanks to Chetham's for allowing us to use this resource.



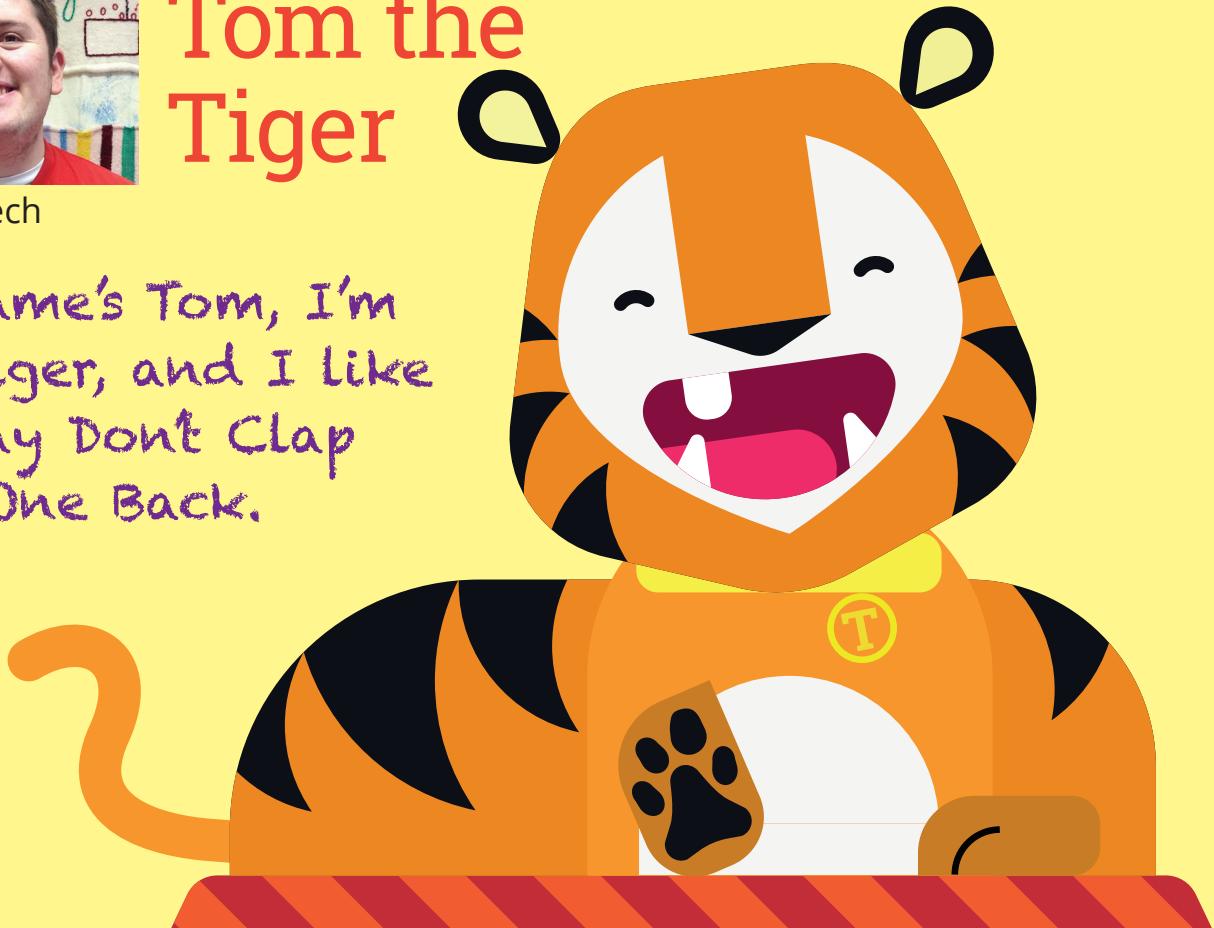
<https://outreach.chethams.com/resources/chethams-outreach-team/sing-with-sarah/>



Tom the Tiger

Adam Leech

My name's Tom, I'm
the Tiger, and I like
to play Don't Clap
This One Back.



Music Activity 1:

Words and phrases have different numbers of 'syllables' in them. You can work this out by how many 'beats' each word has.

Here are some examples:



In this game, 'Don't Clap This One Back' is a forbidden rhythm.

A forbidden rhythm means you shouldn't copy it!



Watch my video: **Tom the Tiger** and see if you can play 'Don't Clap This One Back'



Now have a go with a friend!

Extra Activity:

Can you create your own forbidden rhythm?

Choose a new rhythm. This can be anything you like, but make sure it is easy to remember and that you can repeat it exactly the same each time.

TOP TIP: When creating a forbidden rhythm it can be useful to think of a couple of words or a short sentence that match the rhythm.

- ★ Why not try ones given in the examples in Music Activity 1?
- ★ Have a go at clapping all of the syllables in your name!

Music Activity 2:

Learn my song.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for 'Voice' in treble clef, 4/4 time, with lyrics: 'Don't', 'Clap', 'This', 'One', 'Back!'. The bottom staff is for 'Piano' in treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time, with chords: Dm, G, Dm, A, Dm.

Drama Activity:

What's the time Tom the Tiger? It's dinner time!

Choose one person to play Tom the Tiger. They should stand at one end of the room or playground with their back to the rest of the group.

- Make sure there are no obstacles (like tables and chairs) in between the group and the tiger.
- ★ The group asks '*What's the time Tom the Tiger?*'
- ★ The person playing Tom should turn around and say a time such as '3 o'clock'
- ★ The group should then step forward to match the time given, e.g. for '3 o'clock' everyone should take 3 steps forward.
- ★ Repeat, with Tom calling out different times until finally the Tiger says '*It's Dinner Time!*'
- ★ When this happens, the group should move back to the starting line, while Tom turns around and points at one person, saying their name clearly before they reach the starting line. It is now their turn to play 'Tom the Tiger'!

Circus Magic Rhythm

Music Activity 1:

Have a go at clapping your hands in time to this rhythm.

Cir-cus Ma-gic! Cir-cus Ma-gic!

Come and play! Come and play!

Join us all to make some noise! Join us all to make some noise!

Eve-ry Day! Eve-ry Day!

*Using the tune and rhythm of Frere Jacques
Can be done as a Round (entry point at *)*

Musical notation for three voices and a bass line in common time (4/4). The treble clef is used for all voices. The bass line is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "Cir - cus ma - gic, Cir - cus ma - gic," repeated. The bass line provides harmonic support with sustained notes.

Musical notation for three voices and a bass line in common time (4/4). The treble clef is used for all voices. The lyrics are: "Come and play, Come and play," followed by "Cir - cus ma - gic, Cir - cus ma - gic," repeated. The bass line provides harmonic support with sustained notes. A red asterisk (*) marks the entry point for the second section.

Musical notation for three voices and a bass line in common time (4/4). The treble clef is used for all voices. The lyrics are: "Join us all to make some noise, Join us all to make some noise," followed by "Come and play, Come and play," repeated. The bass line provides harmonic support with sustained notes. A red asterisk (*) marks the entry point for the third section.

Music

Voice * Eve - ry day,

Voice 2 Join us all to make some noise,

Bass line

8

Voice Eve - ry day!

Voice 2 Join us all to make some noise, Eve - ry day, Eve - ry day!

Bass line

Once you have got the rhythm, have a go at playing this using the drumsticks on the back of a chair, following our actions.

You could even try singing along with it as well!

Music Activity 2:

We have created a series of actions that can be done using your drumsticks and the back of a chair or a table.



Watch our video: **Circus Magic Rhythm**, and see if you can join in with the DIY Young Leaders.

***In a Round:**

Once the group is comfortable playing this you can play it in a round! A round is a musical term where each voice / group plays or sings the same tune, but beginning at different times. With this tune, each new group should join in once the previous group reaches the * in the music (at each new line of the song).

As part of Circus Tricks, we added LED finger lights to our drumsticks to make this cool rhythmic light display.



Watch the Video: **Circus Magic in a Round**

Have a go at turning off the lights and playing this!

Music Activity:

Our Goodbye Song



Watch the videos:

Scott the Ringmaster & Goodbye From the Circus

and



Goodbye From the Circus Actions

to learn the lyrics and the actions to our Goodbye song.

Don't forget your Ribbon Sticks so
you can join along with us!

Look at the 'Welcome to
the Circus' song on page 7
for the tune to this song.

Goodbye from the Circus!

We hope you've had some fun
Circus Tricks that blew your mind
Now we're nearly done!



Additional Resources:

Visit DIY's website where we have additional resources including how to Create Characters and Make a Zine.

www.diytheatre.org.uk



[www.diytheatre.org.uk/
how-to-take-part/
circus-tricks-resources/](http://www.diytheatre.org.uk/how-to-take-part/circus-tricks-resources/)



DIY Theatre is a Learning Disability Theatre Company based in Salford. We have been creating original, accessible theatre since 1994.

We are member-led, and the majority of our Board members are disabled people. We produce and deliver high quality theatre performances, educational work and training programmes, which are primarily designed with and for adults and young people with learning disabilities.

Our vision is for a world where performers and arts leaders with learning disabilities are valued as part of the rich diversity of our cultural sector and our society.

We work towards our vision by:

- ★ **Challenging** preconceptions and barriers through producing high quality performances, education projects and research.
- ★ **Promoting** achievements of performers, artists and leaders with learning disabilities and sharing good practice.
- ★ **Celebrating** diversity and difference in all areas of our work.



www.diytheatre.org.uk

DIY Theatre Company

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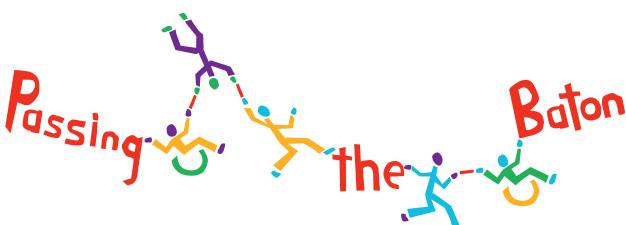
diytheatreco

★ 0161 212 4984

★ diytheatre@gmail.com

★ The Angel Centre,
1 Saint Phillips Place,
Salford M3 6FA

DIY is a Community Interest Company Reg. No 07128047



Passing the Baton is DIY's dedicated Youth Arts Programme and is open to young people aged 10 - 30 years with a learning disability. We offer a weekly Youth Drama Club and a Young Leaders Group and offer the Arts Award throughout the programme. 'Circus Tricks' was created by our Young Leaders Group who adapted their original ideas to suit the needs of Lockdown 2020.





Passing the Baton

Circus Tricks was designed and created by members of DIY Theatre Company's 'Passing the Baton' Youth Arts Programme.

- ★ Music created in collaboration with Sarah Atter.
- ★ Animation created in collaboration with Sam Walters.
- ★ With thanks also to Rachel McMahon, Andrea Vogler, Rosalyne Norford & Poppy Avison-Fell.
- ★ And to our partners in delivery, You Can Youth Club.

You CAN

Circus Tricks!

Many thanks to the funders who supported this work:



ref: DIY461 e&oe Sept 2020.
graphics@andreadesigns.co.uk

Andrea
designs

We hope you had fun, made some noise, and enjoyed Circus Tricks!