



'CIRCUS, COMEDY AND MAGIC WORKSHOPS'



*Most children young people and adults enjoy the experience of circus, comedy and magic. This one and a half hour Workshop provides all **three** in a tantalising mix of participation, laughter, thinking and FUN!*

CIRCUS.

The performance area is set with a 'Bungle the Clown' large box containing a small number of circus skills including spinning plates and poi; balancing long balloons and juggling with scarves; riding a 'motorbike' complete with sound effects. There are large illustrated cardboard cut outs which enable children to be a clown; strongman (or woman!); tightrope walker; escape artist. The icing on the cake - complete with top hat and tailcoat is of course - the Ringmaster!

A circus ring made from 60 hats (which the children use later in the Workshop) and circus-themed music is a **perfect** way to begin.

Children volunteer to play the different parts and create their very own circus. The Ringmaster introduces them with a flourish!

QUESTION TIME?

What is a clown? Who makes you laugh?" Who do you see on television or film (i.e. Harry Hill, Mr Tumble, The Governor in C.B.B.C. 'The Slammer', etc) Chris then transforms into 'Bungle the Clown' highlighting many things about the clown which are larger than life - baggy coat, large trousers, boots + red nose and hat. The children hear a little about the history of clowning including jesters and their hats; the pierrot and modern day clowns. One or two children can try on the coat, boots etc.

LET'S MOVE!

Clowns or funny characters each have their own ways of walking, talking, showing how they feel. They have funny routines and jokes. So let's create our own clowns or funny characters!

Awareness: Explain to the children that they need only do what they're comfortable in doing

1. Choose a hat and a scarf. Put it on and smile; make a statue.

Find a space. Now we're going to create our very own funny characters or clowns. What different ways can you walk? Slowly, fast, big steps, small steps, nervously, bravely, etc. Any other ideas?

2. Now put the hat on but flick it up in the air with the fingers on both hands so it flies off again.

3. Funny routine using the hat. Drop hat; go to pick it up but move it forward with your foot; every time you go to pick it up move it away again and begin to get cross until finally you pick it up with a "Yes!!! and put it on with grin !

4. Now your hat is a steering wheel; mixing bowl; pet cat (Or dog) any other ideas?

5. Greet each other with funny handshakes.

*Electric shock.

*Glue.

*Shake and miss.

Any other ideas?

6. Group statues. Children work in groups of 5's or 6's to create their very own funny statues. The theme can be 'The exploding Cake!!' or their own ideas.

7. In two lines - one performers the other audience - take a bow; take your hat off but as you go to put it on it falls behind you!

8. Children each have a juggling scarf and learn one or two funny routines.

9. **AN INTERACTIVE COMEDY MAGIC SHOW!** Breakaway wand; bake a cake; Magic Colouring Book; Spotted Handkerchiefs etc. etc. This is a Show with a variety of magic tricks and funny routines; new magic words; magic wands and of course - Magician's Assistants !

10. **FINALE:** choose 4 children to play different instruments: the tuba; car horn; duck caller; siren whistle. The song is " Harry Potter's bike has got a puncture in its tyre...and he mended it with chewing gum!" Repeat..(To the tune of 'John Brown's Body"

The children will choose the main character; everybody else is the choir and each time we sing a verse we miss off a word and a different instrument is played

I.e. "Harry Potter's... **Tuba**...has got a puncture in its tyre" etc etc. It's a really funny and winning routine

11. End with the song "**I'm Happy**" by Will Pharrell and children joining in with the clapping etc. (Or any other alternative action song chosen by the children beforehand but School MUST let me know in advance or provide their own C.D. please!!)

Chris also provides a display of props and costumes relating to clowning and circuses.



Chris. works really flexibly and focuses on the ideas and needs of the children taking part in the Workshop.

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FIND YOUR VERY OWN FREEDOM THROUGH HAVING FUN!!