

A Day at the Circus

Through reading this story, the student will be listening and responding to sensory stimuli associated with it. They will use their individual communication systems to communicate whether they want more or to finish, taking some control over their environment and engaging with the supporting adult, who will know how the student communicates.

You will need:

- A small doll to represent Chloe
- Large piece of corrugated cardboard to represent the rough hide of an elephant; alternatively, a party blower can be used to represent the elephant's trumpeting
- A large piece of cloth to represent the circus tent
- A ribbon on a stick: its swirling movements can represent the trapeze artists
- Soft balls or ping-pong balls
- An electronic switch or similar, on which you can record – and the student can activate – the sound of laughter; alternatively, tickle the students' hands with feathers
- Shaving foam
- A tray of water
- Cotton wool
- A container of sweet wrappers (as an alternative to a real toffee apple)
- Bubble mix
- A bag to contain all of the above and which the student will explore before the story begins

1. Tell the student(s) that they are going to use:
 - Their ears to listen
 - Their eyes to look
 - Their noses to smell
 - Their hands to feelAdult models pointing to each and supports the student(s) to touch their own.
2. Continue by saying we are going to listen to a story. Show the student their story bag allowing them to feel and smell saying, "*(Student's name), it's story time.*"
3. Support student(s) to feel, touch and smell the story bag as a cue to the activity.
4. Introduce the story, telling the student(s) it is a story about a girl called Chloe and her trip to the circus. Support the student(s) to explore the doll, which represents Chloe.
5. Read the story slowly, allowing time for the student(s) to lead the session by giving them time to explore.

The Story

Chloe was excited for her trip to the circus. She looked around, deciding where to go first

EXPLORE THE DOLL.

As she was looking, a huge grey elephant walked past.

EXPLORE THE CARDBOARD, ALLOWING THE STUDENT TO FEEL THE BUMPS ON THE CARD.

'Hello, you look lost. Let me help,' said the elephant.

Chloe climbed on the elephant and he showed her around the circus. The elephant walked slowly, bumping Chloe up and down. Bump, bump, bump!

BOUNCING A GYM BALL ON THE FLOOR MAY REPRESENT THE BUMPING OF CHLOE'S RIDE; ALTERNATIVELY, BOUNCE THE DOLL UPON THE STUDENT'S LEGS.

'Let's look here first,' suggested the elephant as he opened the door of the tent with his trunk. Chloe climbed off the elephant and sat next to him.

In the tent, trapeze artists were flying through the air, swinging from one place to the next!

MOVE THE RIBBON STICK TO CREATE SWIRLS; SUPPORT THE STUDENT TO FEEL (AND MOVE) THE RIBBONS IN THE AIR AND ON THEIR LEGS OR ARMS.

Clowns were juggling and making people laugh.

USE A 'SWITCH' WITH PRE-RECORDED LAUGHTER.

One clown threw a custard pie at another clown! Splat!

ALLOW THE STUDENT TO FEEL THE SHAVING FOAM ON A PLATE; ALTERNATIVELY, PUT FOAM ON YOUR HANDS AND CLAP!

Chloe and the elephant were giggling at the clowns, when... splash! A clown threw water into the crowd. Chloe and the elephant were soaked!

GENTLY SPLISH OR SPLASH THE WATER; USE HAND-OVER-HAND TO ALLOW THE STUDENT TO EXPLORE THE WATER WITH THEIR OWN HANDS.

'Come on, let's get out of here,' said the elephant. Chloe followed the elephant out of the tent.



'Let's have a snack,' suggested Chloe. Chloe bought some candy floss for herself and a sticky toffee apple for the elephant.

RUSTLE THE SWEET WRAPPERS; USE HAND-OVER-HAND TO ENABLE THE STUDENT TO DO THE SAME.

They sat and ate in the sun, watching another clown making huge bubbles. The bubbles floated around them, glistening in the sun.

BLOW BUBBLES CLOSE TO THE STUDENTS.

'Thanks for such a lovely day,' said Chloe as she waved goodbye to the elephant.

STUDENT USES THE SWITCH TO MAKE THE CACKLE SOUND

Tell the student story time is over; support them to help pack their bags as cue to the end of the session.