

Fun and Games

Areas of Learning

Primary

The Arts (Drama, Art and Design)

Post-Primary

The Arts (Drama, Art and Design)

Setting the Scene

Collect a variety of clothes and props that the learners can use to dress up as performers in a circus.

If appropriate, paint the learners' faces. You could either do a full clown's face or just a small picture on their cheek. For those learners who do not like anything on their faces, offer to draw a picture on their hand instead. Alternatively, use gentle finger stroking on the face to mimic the painting actions.

Create a large circle in the centre of the classroom with a space for the entrance. Select one game at a time to focus on, and adapt to your learners' needs.

What to Do

Follow the instructions in **Resource 3: Watch for the Tiger**.

Hula hoop game

Decorate large hoops with orange, red and yellow paper to create flaming hoops and place them in the circle.

Give each learner the opportunity to interact with the hoops in the most appropriate way for their individual needs. For example, some learners may be able to step inside the hoop, or staff can pass it over their body to represent jumping through the hoops like a lion. Alternatively, support them to throw balls or beanbags into the hoops.

Clown game

Support learners to experience and become actively involved in the making of a cone-shaped clown hat out of colourful construction paper and curling ribbon. If this is inappropriate use pre-existing props such as clown wigs and hats or clown costumes.

Encourage the learners to enter the ring and act like clowns, such as:

- using water sprays;
- rubbing their hands through shaving foam;
- throwing brightly-coloured balls out of the ring; or
- banging drums.

There is a wealth of other ideas in *Sensory Drama for Very Special People* by Flo Longhorn which can be adapted to suit learners' needs.

What You Need

 **Resource 3: Watch for the Tiger**

- A ringmaster's hat
- Clown wigs and hats
- Clown costumes
- Replica circus animals such as elephants, lions or tigers
- Face paints
- A pretend whip (perhaps made with a ribbon)
- Hula hoops
- Balls and beanbags
- Coloured paper
- Construction paper
- Ribbons
- Water sprays
- Shaving foam
- Drums
- Brightly-coloured balls

