



# ~~Every~~ **Your** Child Ready to Read \*Circus\* Toddler Time @ Corinth Library

Extension Activities to help practice the six pre-reading skills\*  
your child can start learning from birth!

## 1. Narrative Skills: Being able to describe things and events and tell stories.

- Talk with your child about what we did at toddler time today.
- Can you help your child retell what happened in one of these stories from today :  

<u>Circus 1-2-3</u> by Megan Halsey	<u>Thomas the Circus Boy</u> by David Merville
<u>Spot Goes to the Circus</u> by Eric Hill	<u>Sing a Song of Circus</u> by Ward Schumaker
- Check out a book to read at home and then talk about what happens first, next and last in the story.

## 2. Print Motivation: Being interested in and enjoying books.

- Children who enjoy books will want to learn to read, help your child pick a book she/he wants to take home.
- Let your child see you reading for your enjoyment.

## 3. Vocabulary: Knowing the name of things.

- Ask your child to name things that they might see at a circus.
- Have your child help you think of words that describe animals you could see at the circus, then pretend you are those animals.

## 4. Print Awareness: Noticing print, knowing how to handle books & how to follow the words on a page.

- At reading time today hold your book upside down. See if your child turns the book around.
- When you read to your child, point to some of the words as you say them, especially words that are repeated.

\* Based on information developed for "Every Child Ready to Read" a joint project of the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children.  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/pla/plaissues/earlylit/earlyliteracy.htm>

**5. Letter Knowledge: Knowing letters are different from each other, knowing their names and sounds and recognizing letters everywhere.**

- Help your child play with the letter C : Draw it with a crayon, shape it out of play dough, line up carrot wedges in the shape of the letter on their lunch plate.

**6. Phonological Awareness: Being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.**

- Say the rhymes from toddler time at home. Rhymes help children hear the sounds that make up words, a skill that helps children sound out words as they begin to read.
- Sing the songs from toddler time, in most songs each syllable in a word gets a different note.

**We Are Clowns Today**

Sung to: "The Farmer in the Dell"

**We are clowns today, We are clowns today,  
Heigh-ho the derry-oh, We are clowns  
today.**

**Additional verses:**

**We do tricks today.  
We make faces today.**

**Let's All 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 the animals play.**

**Other Verses:**

**See the lions jump through the  
hoops...  
At the circus today**

**See the big seals spinning balls...  
At the circus today**

**See the little dogs jump and twirl...  
At the circus today**

**One little acrobat swinging through the air.**

(Hold index finger up and swing side to side.)

**He flips and he flops as we stare.**

(Make index finger bend up and down.)

**And suddenly he's caught by another with flare!**

(Lock both index fingers together.)

**He didn't even know that he gave me a scare!**

(Shake head and wipe brow.)

**One little acrobat swinging through the air**

(Hold index finger up and swing side to side.)

**He lands and bows with the greatest of care!**

(With left palm facing up, place right hand with  
index finger up on left palm and bend it as to bow.)

**Did You Ever See A Clown**

Sung to: Did You Ever See A Lassie?

**Did you ever see a clown,  
A clown, a clown?**

**Did you ever see a clown  
Move this way and that?**

**Did you ever see a clown  
Move this way and that?**

**Move this way and that way,  
Move this way and that way.**

**Did you ever see a clown  
Move this way and that?**

**Circus Animals**

Sung to: "10 Little Indians"

**Prancing, prancing, prancing  
horses,**

**Prancing, prancing, prancing  
horses,**

**Prancing, prancing, prancing horses  
All around the ring.**

**Other Verses: Leaping lions,  
Marching elephants, Dancing Dogs.**



Johnson County  
**Library**