CIRCUS TREATS

This project was inspired by the Howard Bros Circus Miniature in the Tibbals Learning Center. Howard Tibbals dedicated his life to making the miniature circus model. It uses 44,000 pieces and 3,800 square feet to re-create the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® Circus he remembered from his childhood.

However, the Circus Miniature doesn’t just show the big top circus tent, but also behind the scenes of circus life. In these tents, circus performers and staff would live and eat together. What treats might you eat at the circus? Popcorn, cotton candy, ice cream?

For today’s activity, we will be making our own food to sell at the Big Top. Use puffy paint to decorate your own treats to feed the hungry circus-goers!


Materials: Shaving cream, glue, food coloring, craft sticks, cardboard or thick paper, glitter/sequins

Directions:

To make puffy paint: In a bowl, mix 3 parts shaving cream to 1 part glue. Stir well then add a drop of the food coloring of your choice to the mixture. Stir well again. *Add glitter for extra fun

To decorate: Use a craft stick to scoop out the puffy paint icing and spread it across your paper. Your craft stick has become an icing spatula!

For Cotton Candy: make blue and pink puffy paint, spread it in thick fluffy circles

For Ice Cream: make white (vanilla), brown (chocolate), pink (strawberry), green (mint) puffy paint, adding decorations for toppings

For Popcorn: make yellow puffy paint, spreading small puffy circles around the paper
MORE TO EXPLORE

Questions to ask your little one about the Circus Miniatures:

• How long do you think it took Mr. Tibbals to build such a big circus model?
• Why do think he wanted to build it?
• If you worked at the circus, what would your job be?
• If you could build a model of something, what would you build?

Questions to ask your little one about their Art:

• What circus treat are you going to make? Why?
• What colors should we use to make it?
• How many people are coming to your circus?
• What fun acts will your circus have?

Food Making or Circus related books to read together:

*If you don't have these books at home, youtube.com has read-aloud videos*

• There Are No Bears in this Bakery by Julia Sarcone-Roach
• Nannette’s Baguette by Mo Willems
• Pancakes, Pancakes by Eric Carle
• If I Ran the Circus by Dr. Seuss
• ABC is For Circus by Patrick Hurby