

# At home with childminders and parents

More creative and fun ideas to support your child's learning  
that are linked to our theme of **'BIG TOP'**

## Amazing acrobats

- Use a ribbon on a carpet as a tightrope and take turns with your child to balance along it.
- Make a trapeze for dolls and soft toys from a small cardboard box fastened by some string to a washing line. Let the toys perform by pushing them backwards and forwards.
- Explain that a trapeze is just like a swing. Look at your own swing, or a swing at a park, and talk together about how it works.

## Balancing acts

- Outline a 'Big Top' ring, either indoors or outdoors, and have fun performing as you complete laps of honour together, dancing, doing tricks, riding bicycles or clowning around.
- Buy some stilts or make them from used tins with string tied through them (do not let your children do this). Take turns to walk along a flat path or carpet while everyone else applauds.
- Build a circular 'Big Top' obstacle course from household items, such as cushions and wooden stools, and incorporate any outdoor equipment, such as tunnels or slides. Clap as your child negotiates the course.

## Fantastic jugglers

- Have fun with your child by stacking plastic picnic sets in towers and trying to carry them, or balancing the plates and saucers on your head and along your arms.
- Tape coloured ribbons to short twigs and draw swirling patterns in the air.
- Try juggling with safe household objects, such as clean sponges, pan scrubs, cloths and small plastic plates.
- Play 'Find the ball' using three plant pots. Put the ball under one of the pots and ask your child to guess where it is. Move the pots so that they change places, two at a time, while the ball stays still. Can your child remember where it is?

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