**A CIRCUS WORKSHOP & PRESENTATION RISK ASSESSMENT**



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Circus Tuition

THIS DOCUMENT IS A RISK ASSEMENT FOR A CIRCUS WORKSHOP

### RISK ASSESSMENT: CIRCUS SKILLS; MANIPULATION

* This activity/workshop is very safe providing that the user(s) listen to and follow the instructions given.
* Misuse of the equilibristic equipment could result in injuries

**Workshop/Activity description**: Teaching circus manipulation skills.

The manipulation apparatus may consist of;

* Juggling clubs
* Juggling bean bags / balls
* Juggling scarves
* Juggling rings
* Manipulation hats
* Devil Sticks and hand sticks (also known as flower sticks)
* Diablo and hand sticks
* Plate spinning and hand sticks

These apparatus are designed for throwing, catching and tumbling. The equipment is durable and is fairly difficult to break.

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| *Risk* | *Safety advice* |
| Being hit by a piece of equipment | * Keep eye contact with the juggling equipment * Do not throw / Frisbee juggling equipment at others * Only practice underarm throws with the equipment unless instructed differently * Ensure that you have sufficient working space around you to work * Do not hit other members of the workshop with the circus manipulation equipment |
| Tripping over a piece of manipulation equipment | * After you have finished training with the equipment please tidy the equipment up * Respect the equipment * Do not leave equipment lying around on the floor * Do not stand on any equipment that has been left on the floor |
| Breaking / damaging valuable objects that are already situated in the room | * Remove valuable objects from the room * Locate the workshop area at a safe and sensible distance away from any valuable object. |

***RISK ASSESSMENT: CIRCUS SKILLS; EQUILIBRISTICS***

* This activity/workshop is very safe providing that the user(s) listen to and follow the instructions given.
* **Misuse of the equilibristic equipment could result in injuries.**

**Workshop/Activity description**: Teaching how to walk a **tight wire**.

## Equipment description

* Three large metal poles
* Two platforms
* One Cable
* Two spanners or screwdrivers (to tighten the rig)

Equipment description: The tightwire wire stands 18” from the ground. The wire is approx. 3m long and is supported by a metal frame at either side.

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| *Risk* | *Safety advice* |
| Slipping on the wire | * Flat shoes must be worn on the wire |
| Falling from the wire | * If you loose balance, simply step off of the wire |
| Walking with feet out of line of the wire | * Whilst stepping, make sure that you’re ankle and toes make contact with the wire |
| Running on the wire | * Do not run on the wire |
| Distracting people who are using the wire | * Do not throw things at people who are on the wire * Do not push people who are on the wire. * Do not distract people who are on the wire * Only one person should use the wire at one time |
| Damaging the wire | * Do not leave the tight wire tight whilst it is not in use * Slacken the rope after use |
| * An injury from the spanners or screwdrivers (to tighten the rig) | * Do not ask the children to touch the spanners or screwdrivers (to tighten the rig) |

**Workshop/Activity description**: Teaching how to globe and / or stilt walking.

Equipment used in show or workshop: walking globe, handheld stilts or strap on stilts

Equipment description:

***Globe walking*:** A spherical 60cm diameter globe. (Used in the circumstance of a presentation)

***Strap on stilts****:* Two stilts that include straps. Tape may be used as straps.

***Hand held stilts:*** Two long and thin pieces of apparatus.

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| *Risk* | *Safety advice* |
| Slipping off of the globe | * Flat shoes must be worn on the item. |
| Falling off of the globe or on the stilts | * If you loose balance, simply jump off of the globe or sit down on your base if you are on stilts. * Checking there are no slippery patches or protruding objects in the working space. |
| The learner has a lack of experience | * Whilst learning, the students shall be spotted * The globe shall be placed on crash mats for beginners |
| Distracting people who are using the globe or stilts | * Do not throw things at people who are on the globe or on stilts * Do not push people who are on the globe or who are walking on stilts. * Do not distract people who are on the globe or who are walking on stilts. * Only one person should use the globe or a pair of stilts at one time. |
| The stilts come loose | * The tutor checks the stilt strapping. * The stilt walker sits down and tightens the stilts. |

**Workshop/Activity description**: Teaching how to **unicycle**

Equipment description: A *one wheeled cycle (not used for Key Stage One)*

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| *Risk* | *Safety advice* |
| Slipping off of the unicycle | * Flat shoes must be worn on the unicycle |
| Falling off of unicycle | * Encourage the rider to lean forwards to prevent them from falling on their back * Checking there are no slippery patches or protruding objects in the rehearsal space. * Ensure the unicycling area is a safe distance from other learning activities. |
| The learner has a lack of experience | * Whilst learning, the students shall be spotted * The globe shall be placed on crash mats for beginners |
| Distracting people who are using the Unicycle | * Do not throw things at people who are on the unicycle(s) * Do not push people who are on the on the unicycle(s) * Do not distract people who are on the on the unicycle(s). * Only one person should use the on the unicycle(s) at one time. |
| The stilts cranks, pedal, seat comes loose. | * Check the unicycles parts Are tightened before use. |
| The wheel becomes flat. | * Maintain a firm tyre by inflating the tyre with a pump |

***RISK ASSESSMENT: BALLOON MODELLING***

Items used in the balloon modeling are often used as prizes for helpers in Mr Dan’s Silly Circus Show. Items used in the balloon modeling workshop are balloons, balloon pumps and pens.

**USE A PUMP**

Caution: The modelling balloons are to be inflated by a balloon pump.

Advice: Most new learners may want to try to blow a balloon up with their mouth. They will notice that the Qulatex 260Q brand of modelling balloons which are used in my workshops are extremely difficult to inflate by mouth which is why we provide balloon modelling pumps and explain that there is no need to get out of breath trying to blow the balloons up, after all it can make people dizzy and in extreme cases it could damage their lungs.

**KEEP BALLOONS AWAY FROM FACES**

Caution: Balloons may explode

Advice: It is natural for learners to explode or pop balloons when they are learning balloon modelling. It is important that balloons are kept away from people’s faces which an exploding balloon may damage. If participants are deliberately popping balloons they will be asked not to because this inappropriate behavior and disturbs a relaxed learning environment.

**BE CAREFUL WITH MARKER PENS**

Caution: Marker pens can mark people’s properties.

Advice: Balloons look great marked up, so it is important that the learners decorate their balloons with permanent ink. I ask all of the learners to be careful with the marker pens because I would not want someone’s skin, clothing, or property to be marked by my pens. I instruct all of the class to put the tops back onto the pens after use and ask for my pens to be returned.

**BEWARE OF CHOKING**

Caution: Balloons are not edible.

Advice: Although it is unlikely that someone would try to eat a balloon, it is important to make sure that no-one chews on the balloons like chewing gum, if this happens to an inflated balloon it may pop in the person’s face. It is also important that no learners eat, or swallow the balloons or even the popped bits of balloons. The balloons are not sweets, they are not edible and if swallowed you can choke on them.

**LATEX ALLERGY**

Caution: Latex Allergy

Advice: Please ask all the learners if the y have a latex allergy as the latex and the balloons could cause illness to someone who has this rare condition.