

CIRCUS HORSES AND TRAINER



4 yrs

EQUIPMENT

Chalk and a whip (a stick with string on the end). Optionally, drums for the 'circus orchestra'.

HOW TO PLAY

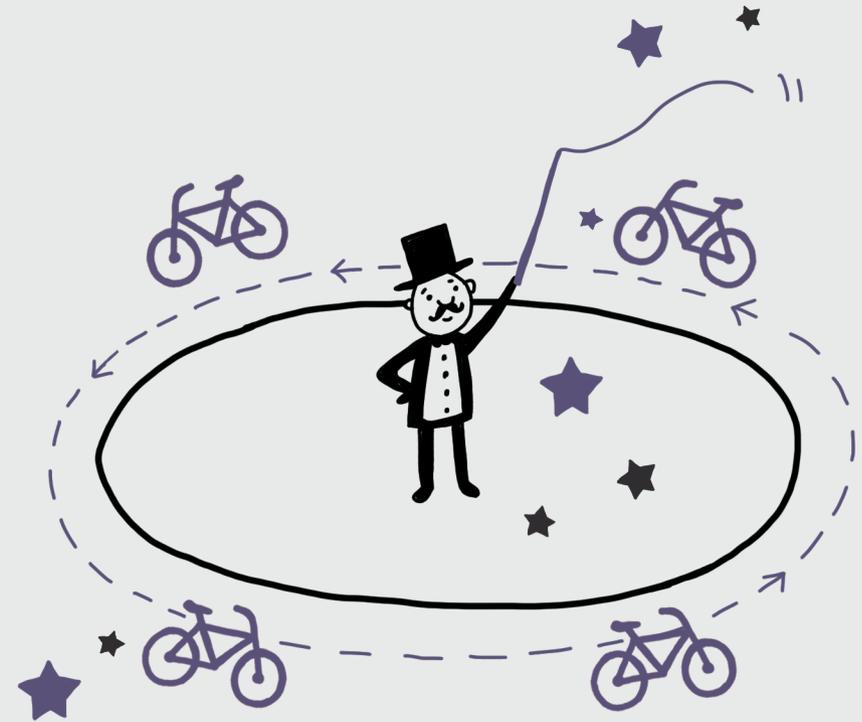
The adult is a horse trainer, and stands in the middle of the circus ring with his whip. The children are circus horses, and they have to obey the trainer's commands.

- 'Circle' = ride round the ring
- '1-2-3-stop' = stop the bike and put your feet on the ground
- 'Zigzag' = ride in a zigzag between the inner and outer circles of the ring.
- 'Neigh' = neigh in chorus as loud as you can.

Make up more commands of your own, or set particular tasks – e.g. all the girls have to ride 'scooter-fashion', everyone under six years old has to hit their own head with their right hand, and so on. The game ends with the command 'centre', meaning that the children turn towards the centre, stop and make their bikes rear up.

RIDERS PRACTISE

- Switching between different formations and movements
- Understanding and obeying group instructions – and fitting in with the group
- Discovering new skills in themselves and in others



Tip: If there are many children, half can be the audience, cheering and clapping – or they can be a circus orchestra, tootling and drumming.

IDEAS FOR DEVELOPING THE GAME

Simplification: Use only two commands: 'start' and 'stop'

Development: Let the children take turns at playing the trainer.

Variation: Present a circus performance where the children devise their own tricks and show them to each other. Make sure there are drumrolls and loud applause