

Attend the Royal Canadian Circus

Cultural Events | Festivals | Events



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WHAT MAKES IT MEANINGFUL

Going to the circus offers a magical and memorable outing filled with lights, music, and performance. It encourages wonder, community participation, and social bonding. For individuals with special needs, it can foster emotional expression, curiosity, and shared enjoyment in a festive environment.

TIME

- **2.5–3 hours total**
 - Arrival/seating: 30–45 minutes before show
 - Show length: ~2 hours with intermission

MATERIALS

- Printed or digital **event tickets**
- **Ear protection** (noise-canceling headphones or earplugs)
- **Water bottle**, light snack if allowed
- **Sensory comfort items** (fidget toy, sunglasses, stress ball)
- **Visual schedule or social story**
- Optional: cash or card for snacks/souvenirs



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INSTRUCTIONS

1. Buy Tickets in Advance

- Choose accessible seating if needed
- Print or save tickets to phone

2. Prepare for the Experience

- Review visual schedule or social story about the circus
- Discuss what to expect: loud music, clapping, lights, animals, clowns, etc.
- Pack comfort items and essentials

3. Arrive Early

- Get there 30–45 minutes before showtime
- Find seats, use washroom, get familiar with space

4. Enjoy the Show!

- Watch performances like acrobats, juggling, clowns, and daredevil stunts
- Cover ears or take a break if needed (may be loud or exciting)
- Intermission: use washroom, stretch legs, or get a snack

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5. After the Show

- Exit calmly with the group
- Reflect on favorite acts: “What was your favorite part?”

RESOURCES

- <https://www.royalcanadiancircus.ca/>

SUPPORTS NEEDED

- **Visual schedule** showing arrival → show → intermission → home
- **Social story** to preview environment and rules
- **Noise protection:** headphones, earplugs
- **Seat near exit** in case a break is needed
- **Support with transitions** (e.g., entering loud tent, finding seat)
- **Verbal cues** before applause, lights, or act changes

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- **One-on-one assistance** for waiting in line, navigating crowds
- **Break plan** (e.g., walk to quiet area or sit outside if overwhelmed)
- **Praise and celebration** for attending, even in part
- **Buddy system** or group leader to ensure safety

OTHER THINGS TO NOTE

- **Touring across Canada** (check www.royalcanadiancircus.ca)
- **Toronto example:** Woodbine Mall parking lot (tent venue)
- **Dates:** Multiple dates across summer (usually May–September)
- **Times:** Matinee and evening shows (e.g., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m.)
- Check local schedule and purchase tickets in advance online.