

Petals & Play Thursday

Whirl & Bloom Carousel Day



Dear Families & Friends,

This week's Petals & Play Thursday activity is full of joyful motion and blooming imagination! We're excited to share our newest printable activity set: Whirl & Bloom Carousel Day 🦋🌸

Inspired by the classic magic of merry-go-rounds, this activity set invites children to move, imagine, and create—developing key skills like balance, coordination, creative expression, and social-emotional connection along the way.

Inside, you'll find hands-on, developmentally appropriate resources you can enjoy together:

- ✂️ Craft your own carousel animals and flowers
- 🎵 Dance, spin, or gallop in a pretend ride-along circle
- 📖 Read and imagine carousel adventures during storytime
- 🍓 Build a carousel-themed snack using flower-shaped fruits and veggies
- 🌸 Practice turn-taking, teamwork, and joy-filled movement

Looking for even more ways to play and grow together? Try these easy add-ons:

- 🪑 "Spin Station": Let your child sit and gently spin on a swivel chair while listening to carousel music. Talk about how fast or slow it feels!
- 🐾 Animal Parade: Line up stuffed animals and take turns choosing which one you'd ride if it were on a carousel.
- 🎨 Design a Ride: Draw a dream carousel animal—will it be a butterfly, a dinosaur, or a flower with wings?
- 🧩 Build a Circle Track: Use blocks or books to make a circular path, then guide a toy animal "round and round" the track.

These small moments of play support your child's growing body and brain—and they're a great way to stay connected and have fun as a family, as well as a class.

🌻 **Learning is blooming—one whirl at a time!**

with joy.
the green academy
team

Whirl & Bloom Carousel Day

Activity 1: Mini Carousel Craft

- Supplies: Paper plates, drinking straws, tape/glue, animal or flower cutouts, markers.
- Children decorate the plate and attach animals to the outer edge with straws.
- Great for: Fine motor skills, creative expression, following instructions.

Activity 2: Carousel Ride Pretend Play

- Supplies: Carpet markers or yoga mats, stuffed animals, scarves, music player.
- Children “ride” their plush friends in a circle while carousel music plays.
- Great for: Gross motor coordination, imaginative play, social interaction.

Activity 3: Grab the Brass Ring

- Supplies: Paper rings, string, dowel or hanging structure.
- Hang paper rings for children to grab while moving past (walking or riding toy).
- Great for: Hand-eye coordination, motor planning, turn-taking.

Activity 4: Story & Music Circle

- Supplies: Picture book (e.g., 'The Carousel Horse'), audio player, carousel music.
- Read carousel-themed stories and sway, dance, or spin to music.
- Great for: Language development, rhythm, listening skills.

Activity 5: Carousel Flower Snack

- Supplies: Apple slices, cucumber rounds, crackers, cream cheese or hummus, optional edible flowers.
- Create “flower snacks” with round cracker centers and produce petals.
- Great for: Healthy eating habits, sensory play, fine motor control.

💡 Tip: While National Merry-Go-Round Day is officially on July 25, you can celebrate it on Thursday the 24th for a perfect Petals & Play Thursday!

Carousel Printables



🦄 Hands-on resources to help little learners grow through movement, imagination, and joyful play – one whirl at a time. 🌸

Instructions for Use

Print on Cardstock (if possible)

For best results, print the cutouts on cardstock to make them easier to cut and more durable for play.

Color First, Then Cut

Invite children to color or decorate their animals and flowers before cutting them out. This helps with grip and fine motor control.

Assembly Ideas:

Tape carousel animals to straws or craft sticks and "ride" them in pretend play.

Attach flowers to paper plates, turning them into carousel platforms.

Use the canopy triangle to crown a carousel or for decoration.

Combine with the Main Activity Sheet

These cutouts pair perfectly with the main Petals & Play activity sheet for a complete classroom or home activity experience.













