

# Carnival Booths 101

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## Safety First –

Carnivals are visited by families and many of these have preschool children. Almost all prizes and toys are NOT recommended for children under the age of three. Have some toddler prizes available for the little ones like animal crackers, fish crackers or [Toddler Prizes](#) like spike balls that are safety tested for all ages!

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## Train booth Volunteers Properly –

If you think folks know how to play each carnival game... think again. A local school had a [Lollipop Tree](#) with tiny and large lollipops side-by-side. You can guess which lollipops were picked first! It turns out that the large pops were ordered as a top prize, but the volunteers did not get the message. As a result, there was never a line at the booth as they ran out of top prizes!

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## Plan for Profit Using Simple Math –

When choosing activity booths, check to see if the booth can make a profit! How? Determine the cost of the activity per hour and divide that by the number of hourly players. For example, if your face painter charges \$50 per hour and paints a face every 5 minutes - that will cost \$4.16 for each face *just to break even!* To save money, consider having volunteers apply [kiddie tattoos](#) that cost less than 10 cents each!

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## Display Your Prizes –

If you are planning a fundraising carnival, it is generally too expensive to have large prizes at *every* booth, but you can display your prizes to get kids excited about playing! For smaller prizes, put them in colorful buckets or baskets and for larger prizes like [stuffed animals](#) hang them up for all to see and watch the kids line up for a chance to win!

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## Learn from Last Year or Start This Year –

Did you hold a carnival last year? Did you keep track of the [carnival tickets](#) collected at each booth? If so put that information to good use. You can see what booths were the most popular & made the most profit! No ticket counts from last year? Start this year by asking volunteers to count the tickets collected and save the count at each booth before you toss them out!