

Fishing

The activity 'Fishing' can operate in a variety of different 'watery' settings, as well as engaging participants in individual or cooperative tasks. Set the scene by creating an area of water to fish – this can be a pond, river, lake or on a boat at sea, for example.

Use layers of stretch wrap to form the shape of a pool which will create rippling water effects. A paddling pool, large acrylic mirror or blue/green organza could also be used. Fill the 'water' with all kinds of brightly coloured fish which can be easily sourced i.e. fishermen's lures or rubber/plastic toys.

Large quantities of fish cut from a silver space blanket make a wonderful, cheap resource that look amazing. The space blanket from which the fish were cut can also be used to create rippling fish shadows, enhancing the environment.

Source buckets and cheap fishing nets which can be found online or in poundshops in the summer. They are light and easy to handle for those who have problems with grip and can be used for a cooperative activity by anyone, even those with limited movement.

Make fishing lines from bamboo canes (garden centre) with string attached. To add another dimension to this prop, bells could be tied along the string, creating jingling sounds while fishing. In the sea, large fishing nets can be used cooperatively by whole groups.

Perhaps large fish puppets/sea creatures could also appear

Salmon fishing with a friendly bear in an icy river might be another experience you could try

Accessing the activity:

- Encourage participants to discover the pool and look at the fish.
- Use the nets to scoop up fish and look at the different types they find. They will encourage people to look up and follow an activity, as well as developing movement and dance - raising/lowering, swinging side to side, scooping etc.
- See the silver fish shimmering in the lights, watch as they float through the air when dropped. Feel their tactile quality, how they crackle and whisper when held.
- Hold the nets whilst someone else gathers fish to flutter down into them, catch them as they fall.
- Scoop the fish into buckets and show others what you've caught. Pour the fish from bucket to bucket or back into the pool.
- Cast your fishing lines into the pool and listen to the jingling sounds as you try to hook a fish.
- Magnets can be used so fish can be picked up from the pool.
- Make patterns with the fish swimming in the water.
- Pretend to paddle in the pool but mind out for the fish!
- Enhance the quality of the water experience by adding SFX or use instruments such as dulcimers and small metallophones to create rippling water sounds or ocean drums if you are at sea.

Links

Space blankets (Prop)

Stretch wrap (Prop)

Workshops - Nessie, All at Sea, Orca Free, Salmon

Videos

Sea fishing

More sea fishing

Bell fishing

Fish sounds

Fishes in the water