

Poodle Parlour (Aprons + shower caps)

Environment Set up like dog-grooming salon - reception with poodle character receptionist, variety of soft toy dogs of varying sizes all around the room (some in greetings room to bring with). Shelving with shampoo/shower wash etc bottles, some with lentils/rice/pasta inside. Shower hose and 'baths' on table/floor, filled with silver and stripped plastic. Sponges, soaps, scrubs and bubble machines. Grooming brushes and accessories - clip-on bows and flowers. Park - grass and trees, collars on sticks, dog toys, hoops, balls. Picnic options.



Shampoo and Set Sign in with the receptionist and settle your dogs. Smell the different lotions and potions, shake the bottles and start to scrub-a-dub your dogs using fingers, brushes, sponges - don't get soap in their eyes! Feel all the different textures, enjoy the scents and sounds, catch the bubbles as they float around, then towel dry.



Accessorise Take mirror brushes and see your reflections, then groom the dog's fur; on his tummy, tail and back, don't forget his ears. Help each other. Choose from bowls of brightly coloured clip-on flowers and bows and fancy 'hairband' collars. You can 'groom' each other and choose matching accessories too.



At the Park Little dogs can have collars on sticks - for taking a walk, others can bound and jump with joy - freedom and play on the grass. Explore the different dog toys, feel the textures/shapes, play with each other's dogs. Throw brightly coloured balls through hoops, dogs can jump through hoops too! Have fun then settle on the grass for a picnic.



Observations While being aware that some participants may be nervous of our canine friends, this setting provides a safe multisensory environment where people can engage as much or as little as they wish. Apart from one client, all participants overcame their fears and enjoyed the scents, sounds and textures of bathing and grooming as well as having fun at the park. The bubble machines as always proved to be a favourite activity, but there was plenty of humour throughout each session, especially when grooming transferred to dog-owners as well. Playing with dog toys was difficult until balls and hoops were introduced. Picnic settled everyone at the end.

