

## Shopping

Taking an everyday event and drawing out elements that will make it accessible to all participants is an excellent starting point for creating a multisensory experience which will be highly motivating for a wide range of engagements. Shopping is an activity with which everyone is familiar, though many are 'taken shopping', it is a passive experience, with little participation, self-advocacy or choice-making. When devising a 'shopping' experience, choose a subject that will offer a range of access levels. Set the scene using props inspired by your chosen environment, i.e. shoe shop, market, bookshop, café.

Accessing the activity:

- Create a welcoming environment - props clearly displayed and easily accessible, at different heights
- Think about using projection or SFX to the set scene
- Use a character to greet and guide people through the activities available - shopkeeper/waitress/bartender
- Once participants enter the space, encourage them to explore the products available for purchasing, picking items off the shelves and exploring their textures and uses.
- Encourage participants to try things, i.e. try shoes or clothes on, or perhaps there are food samples to try. Use mirrors so people can look at their reflections.
- Try to build in comedy elements, for example use oversized hats, sparkly outfits, fluffy slippers, for participants to try on and see themselves wearing in the mirrors. Or perhaps a practitioner takes on the role of a clumsy member of staff.
- Hand out baskets so participants can collect items.
- Encourage participants to take on 'staff' roles, such as sorting out products, pairing items, stacking shelves, making announcements through a microphone.
- Incorporate instruments that can enhance an activity, such as using gatos/washboard to mend shoes.
- Once items have been chosen and enjoyed, it is time to tidy the store for the next day. Return products to their shelves. Use cloths, feather dusters, mops, brooms to tidy up.
- Create sound sequences and rhythm sections using props such as brooms, or instruments incorporated into the scene.
- Once the shop is tidy, turn over the closed sign and dim the lights.

Links

Mirrors (Prop)

Boxes (Prop)

Workshops - Cobblers, Marchand de Vin, Mont St Victoire

Videos

Boxes

Shoebboxes

Jaunty Waiter

Itinerant Musician

Café Circle Dance

Hats

Marchand de Vin