Summer in an Iris Garden Hiroshiga (Purple/pink sashes)

Environment Sand area, dotted with large stones, rakes, chopsticks, rolls of bamboo fence, bamboo to decorate, trays. Fishpond, weeping willow, fish and small, smooth stones, heron wind chime, anklung. Pagoda area, parasols and fans, Koto type instrument, shimmers, teapot (green tea + cranberry) and bowls, fish snacks and Mikado sticks.

Zen sand garden Rake patterns in the sand, draw with fingers, toes and chopsticks, see/feel the sand pouring down, carry on trays to wheelchair users to feel sand and create their own patterns. Add bamboo 'rolls' and play with chopsticks, creating rhythms and sounds.

Fish Pond The water is cold and refreshing, feel it with fingers, dip in your toes or climb in! Feel the cool water on smooth stones. Catch the coloured fish, they tickle arms and legs. The heron comes looking for fish, share your catch with him. Make the sounds of dripping water with anklung as you relax by the pool.

Tea ceremony Dance round the garden with white parasols, spinning above and below you, play hide and seek, promenade together. Then cool yourselves with white fans while tea is served. taste the green tea and enjoy Japanese snacks while you listen to the gentle sounds of the 'koto' instrument.

Observations Sand is an ever-popular medium, enjoyed on several levels. Raking patterns added a new dimension and playing the bamboo 'trellis' with chopsticks was fun! The cool pond setting created a contrasting experience, cooling each other with water, playfulness with the fish and some excellent interactions with the heron chimes puppet. The silk parasols provided a beautiful visual prop and the tea ceremony, with the tones of the koto was very ritualistic and created a sense of calm.











