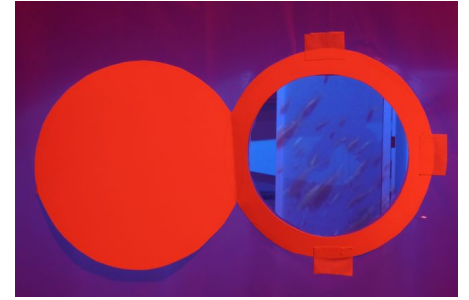


Octopus Odyssey

Environment: Polythene submarine with portholes, sherbet oxygen powder, sub and underwater sounds. Screens with projections of moving fish on reef. Fish on sticks, hand-held jellyfish, stripped plastic, giant 'bubble' balls. Metallophones, and chimes. Treasure chest with fish puppets. Giant Octopus puppet (with flashing lights) hanging from ceiling. Chill end with textured 'anemones', fish mobiles, tactile objects and shimmering voiles.

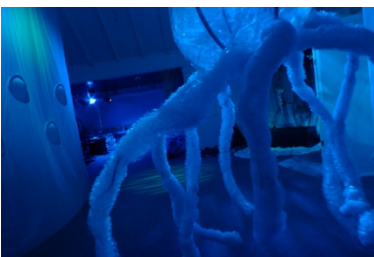


Submarine Enter through air hatch, meet Captain, take seats and prepare to dive. Red light and underwater sounds. Dive! Reach bottom, see moving images thro' polythene. Open portholes and see fish swimming. Take 'oxygen' powder and prepare to exit sub.



Sea Bed Exit sub and swim with the fish, watching own shadows against screens. Swim on giant bubbles, add fish on sticks and jellyfish - playful, full of movement and exploration. Swim around space, interacting with each other, catching fish. Become mermaids or crawling sea-slugs, dolphins or crabs. Introduce large metallophone - encourage clients to initiate musical rhythms and melodies. Bring out chimes and enjoy focused listening and playing of watery sounds.

Treasure Chest Sounds from the chest - clients find and open chest together. Puppets emerge and engage with clients, if poss., they can control the action. Playful spotty fish, beautifully textured manta ray, mischievous crawling crab, beautiful jellyfish. Baby octopus is left behind..... calls for mother.....



Giant Octopus Movement above signals entry. gently lowered into space and greeted by clients. Happy to find baby, coloured lights flashing down its legs. Rises and lowers as she dances and greets the group. Space for individual interactions, touching the bubble wrap legs, hiding underneath, stroking, singing with. Eventually swims away.

Chill Swim through the billowing silk seas to the sea cave and chill feeling the textures of 'wobbly', fluorescent creatures and swimming fish. Then return to sub to resurface.

Evaluation Truly a multisensory workshop - free and all-enabling. Although we had predicted that the confined space of the submarine might be difficult for many clients, we were surprised by how many coped brilliantly and remained participating throughout that sequence. Carers too were amazed by the engagement of certain individuals, their exploration and enjoyment of the space, the incredible responses to the puppets, the projections and props. The watery music section was particularly focused with full engagement from whole groups. Awe and wonder is the only way to describe initial responses to the Octopus - open-eyed, wide mouthed incredulity. Curiosity and inquisitiveness led to touching, dancing with, talking/singing to her. Sad to see her go.

The Sea cave provided a safe, but still stimulating sensory space for those who needed occasional time-out.

