

Pirates of the Caribbean

Environment Pirate costumes. Beach - sand, shells, shakers and bamboo. Chief's shelter - cloth floorpiece, mask, neckpiece, bamboo fence, boomwhackers, white/yellow facepaints, bananas. Shelter - ships sails, bamboo, driftwood, beachmats. Fire and star projections. Lavender oils.



Beach Pirates row to desert island. Find and explore beach - foot/handprints, sand in toes, pouring, making patterns/maps, burying. Sounds of sand - add shakers and instruments.



Chief appears, can't speak - all communication through gestures, signs and sounds. Greets each individual in response to their own communication abilities. Introduce boomwhackers and play with call/answer, rhythms, tapping - build rhythms and extend movement around room.



Fish tribe Gather group and initiate each person into tribe with facepaints, signs of fish/shells/water, stroking with brushes, dabbing with fingers - focused 1-1 work.

Bananas Feast together, sharing smell/taste of bananas, enjoying being part of group.

Fire n Stars Night falls and tribe gathers round fire to rest listening to beautiful music, singing, narrating their adventures and being massaged with aromatic oils, before rowing back to ship.

Evaluation Successful workshop on many levels - sand provides a total multisensory environment on its own, with room for playful exploration of textures and sounds as well as focused gentle 1-1 work. The chief introduced an interesting medium for communicating without speaking - some fantastic original responses using body language and sounds, with intense concentration and attention. Boomwhackers enabled whole group activity and extension of movement as well as interesting play with calling sounds, tapping each other's tubes, pouring sand through, listening through tubes. Face-paints enabled more focused 1-1 work, with many new clients allowing, even encouraging this attention. Banana feast enjoyed by all - a big motivator for stray individuals to join the group! Chilling round the fire under the stars clearly showed this is an area we haven't been able to work on doing short projects with ever-changing carers. Many groups, including carers, found it really difficult to just lie down and relax.

