Shukhov Tower

Environment Tower created with black elastic lengths attached to hoop at the bottom. Black and white elastic lengths fan out like soundwaves around the space. White and orange lighting creates shadows on walls. Elastic loops of all sizes and widths on black cloth. A dozen Hexbugs, tambours and drums, beaters. String and cup 'telephones'. Microphone with reverb/echo. Blue tooth vibrating speaker and soundboards set up with familiar 'happy' song on iPad. Sweet 'elastics'.



Elastic Shukhov tower can be accessed in a variety of ways - swinging, bouncing, stretching across space, sitting inside, spinning. Explore tension - release and vibrations, see elastic wobble and vibrate, creating shadows on the walls. Wheelchair users can sit behind and feel vibrations, affect the patterns/vibrations with smallest movements of feet and hands. Play with individual loops, joining participants in pairs trios, even whole group. Opportunities for slapstick and fun. Boing! Wear as headbands or sashes.



Vibrations Introduce hexbugs on tambours and drums, feel and hear the sounds and vibrations they create as they skuttle across the surface, catch them if you can!. Feel them on your skin - they tickle. Build vibrations and sounds with rhythmic drumming, creating a pulse of sound.



Vocal sounds Use string and cup 'telephones' to focus listening and motivate vocalisation. hear the sounds amplified and feel the vibrations tickle your ears. Good for partner work. Add microphone with effects to further encourage vocalisation



Vibrating speaker Connected to a familiar song, hear how the sound is amplified when put on tambours, soundboards, trays, wall.....how it disappears when taken off. Feel the vibrations it creates with hands and feet. Could add rice/salt to add a visual effect.

Observations What we thought might be a difficult workshop, proved to be extremely engaging for participants, providing lots of opportunities for focused 1-1 work as well as fun and playfulness. Accessible to sight impaired and PMLD clients who could feel effects as well as hear the sounds around them. The elastic encouraged movement and interaction as well as creating large visual demonstrations of how soundwaves might travel around the space.



