

Underwater Activities

This magical blue world of multisensory opportunities and fun can be created in a variety of ways. Participants could explore a sandy seabed, similar to the Beach activity, but including sea creatures; crab/fish/jellyfish puppets, sea anemones and sea slugs. Or they could dive down to a coral reef, lit with UV, with strange creatures glowing, hiding and reappearing. Use translucent organza or thin polythene sheets to create underwater currents.

Here are a couple of different ideas for exploring underwater environments:

Looking for Orca

Costume: goggles, swim hats, flippers if appropriate

Resources:

- blue/green dappled lighting and blue voiles/thin plastic sheets
- stretchwrap fish puppet (see stretchwrap prop)
- children's 'tunnel' sea slug + plus assorted rubbery creatures to feed him
- jellyfish umbrellas
- white foam manta rays
- whale sounds/whale projection
- inflatable whale
- fishy snacks (fish-shaped cheesy biscuits)

Encourage participants to swim through the shimmering blue/green organzas, under, over and through, until they are deep enough to find the creatures who live there:

- Meet the giant stretchwrap fish who leaps through the water towards you. Swim together and feel its scaly skin.
- Feed the greedy sea-slug, who crawls and shuffles and nibbles your toes.
- Glide through the blue water with beautiful foam manta rays, catching the light as it ripples on their slowly flexing fins.
- Change the dynamic as a bloom of jellyfish appears bobbing, dancing, spinning, twirling through the water, making stunning moving shadows all around you. Hide inside them, feel their tentacles, hear them swish and flutter around you. Come together and make a giant organism, then bob away, filling the space with movement.
- Listen to whale calls echoing through the space then see the whales appear (projection), and an inflatable whale swims out of the darkness.
- Share fishy treats before swimming away home.

Coral reef

Resources:

- a coral reef built from cloths over a frame of white tubes and lit from above with dappled light
- fronds of polythene 'seaweed' hanging down into the space
- fluorescent fish and cloths and a UV light source
- a helium balloon in the shape of a pilot fish
- chimes and/or vibratones

Swim down into this very different underwater world:

- Play music with chimes as you move down, down through the water
- Explore the coral reef and discover the sea slugs and anemones
- Watch as a beautiful pilot fish swims out from behind the reef - it's Nemo!
- See the light change and watch all the brightly coloured fish swimming around (as you go into UV)

Links

[Stretchwrap \(Prop\)](#)

[Umbrellas \(Prop\)](#)

[Chimes and Vibratones \(Props\)](#)

[Workshop - Nautilus, Orca Free, Coral Reef](#)

[Videos](#)

[Nautilus Puppet](#)