

# The Mystic Seaport Storybag Project; Emergent and Functional Literacy to Get Excited About!



# Mystic Seaport

## The Museum of America and the Sea



# The Storybag



# The Shipsmith



Listen to the bellows and the hiss of  
the fire, smell the smoke....



# Shipsmith Items



# At the Shipsmith:

*Hear:* The bellows (and/or the crank of the air blower)  
The fire crackling  
The hammer on the anvil  
The hiss of the metal as it cools in water

*Smell:* Fire and Smoke

*Touch:* Samples of things made there

*Ask:* What are the jib hanks used for?  
When the anvil is struck, does the sound change as the iron cools down?  
What other items were made in this shop?  
What is the best part of being a shipsmith?

# The Cooperage







# Cooperage Items



# At the Cooperage:

*Hear:* The banging on the hoops

The rocking of the barrel to get it upright

*Smell:* Wood shavings

*Touch:* Barrels, explore the sizes of barrels and buckets

Hoops and staves

Roman numeral carvings on barrels

Crawl into the big barrel

*Ask:* What were barrels used for?

How do you move a barrel?

How did they get into the belly of the ship?

What is the best part of being a cooper?

# Middle Wharf



# Middle Wharf Items



# On Middle Wharf:

Seagulls dive deep in the water to get shellfish like clams, oysters, and mussels to eat. The birds fly up high and drop them on the dock. The hard shells crack so the birds can slurp up the shellfish hidden inside!

*Hear:* The call of seagulls

The crack of the shells hitting the dock

The crunch of broken shells under your feet

*Smell:* The seaweed and water at low tide

*Touch:* the shells on the dock

# The L.A. Duntton Fishing Schooner



# The Dorries





# L.A. Dunton Items



# On the L.A. Dunton:

- Hear:* Music and singing on board  
Lines creaking through the blocks  
Wind whistling through the rigging,  
Noises of the dory being lowered into the water
- Smell:* Lines (plain vs. tar-covered)  
Dried codfish
- Touch:* lines, plain vs. tar-covered  
decks, lines, sails
- Ask:* Why did men go out to sea to fish?  
Why are some lines coated with tar?  
What did fishermen eat?  
While at sea, how did they catch the fish?  
Why did they dry out the fish?

# Buckingham Hall House



and the Garden...



So much to explore in the kitchen...



So many things to touch in the garden!



# Buckingham Hall House Items



# In the House:

*Hear:* The crackle of burning wood in hearth  
The creaking of floorboards overhead and below your feet

*Smell:* Plants in the garden  
Food items in the crocks and bowls

*Touch:* Food items in the kitchen  
Leaves in the garden

*Ask:* How did children spend their time?  
What chores did they do?  
What are the knitted cotton squares for? Who would make them?  
How is the children's bedroom different from yours?  
Where did the children play?  
What things grew in the garden?



# The Children's Museum at the Seaport



# Exploring the children's kitchen...



# Families said....

- “Great family day! Although my son is cognitively delayed, we were able to find activities he enjoyed.”
- “We had such an amazing time at the seaport!”
- “Great experience for the entire family. Loved all the tactile items! Thanks so much!”
- “Thank you for providing this opportunity. We love to get out and about as a family and this helped make it possible!”
- “We had a great time! We’ll try to go again next weekend!”

# Saying goodbye to an amazing day at Mystic Seaport...



# Who's Ready to Give it a Try??

More than just Children's Museums...

Any Museum, indoor or outdoor

Historical sites and homes

Zoos and Aquariums

What else???

# Thanks for Coming!!!

