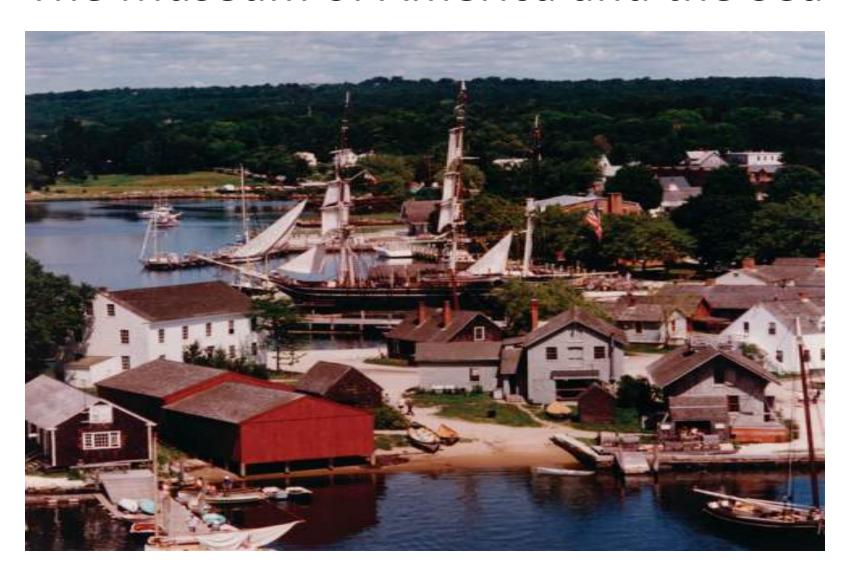
#### The Mystic Seaport Storybag Project; Emergent and Functional Literacy to Get Excited About!



# 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. Dunton Fishing Schooner



### The Dories



#### 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!!!

