

The Circus with a Purpose

Describing for children

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Meeting the challenges

- preparing the company
- designing the touch tour
- using handling objects
- sourcing the description equipment
- finding a description style
- collecting feedback

Preparing the company

Employ a professional blind or partially sighted trainer

- the social model of disability
- appropriate communication
- principles and practice of guiding
- guide and companion dog etiquette
- physical accessibility audit
- 'always ask'

Designing the touch tour

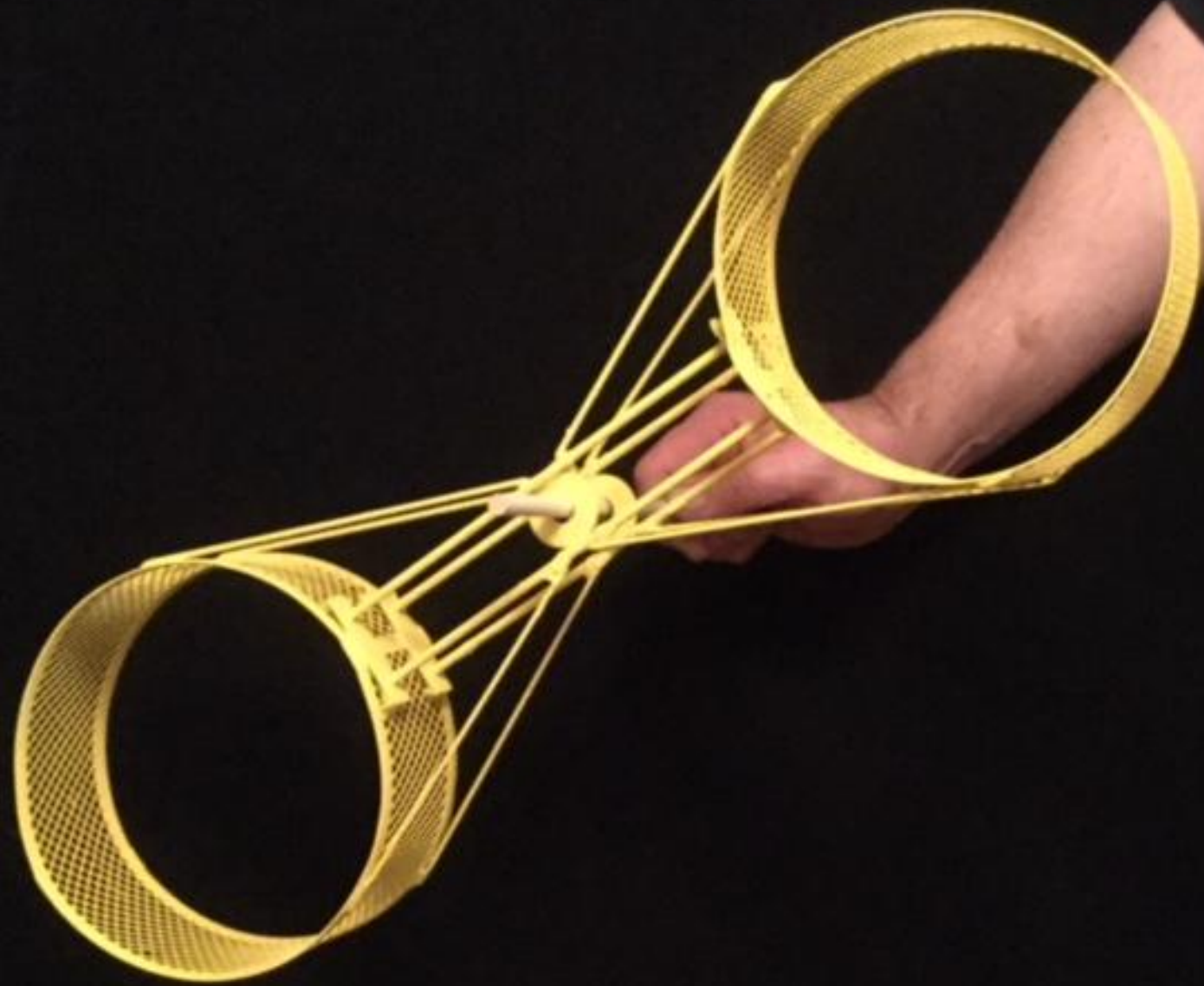
- agree the objects in advance
- ask the company to suggest activities
- arrange a suitable time and meeting place
- check for a clear and accessible route
- provide a range of activities
- provide activities that need a little audio-description



Using handling objects

- offer a sensory box in advance of the visit
- provide examples of:
 - costumes, small props
 - scents
 - music specific to the acts
- provide handling models of the artists' equipment







Sourcing the description equipment

- a radio system (e.g. Sennheiser Tourguide 2020-D)
- a mic that can deal with loud ambient sound (e.g. Sennheiser MD46)
- consider using a pre-amp to boost the signal
- a variety of headsets – enough for parents and siblings





Finding a description style

- use notes, not a script
- use a vivid vocal delivery
- use clear, straightforward language
- remember - you don't know what's going to happen!
- less, but better ...

Collecting feedback

- use a recording device to capture instant reactions
- contact groups and families to ask for ideas for improvement
- include siblings in all activities and ask for their feedback too
- identify pivotal moments that may have ongoing value



eyewitness

the arts through words

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