

Kelley Crossland  
11/12/15

## **Sensory Stimulation Kit** **Theme: April Fools' Day**

### **Supplies:**

Kit Contents: Whoopee cushion, fake cat poop, joke books (2), "April fish", "Lion-washing ceremony" ticket, candy dish filled with Skittles, M+M's, and Reese's pieces, salt shakers (one with sugar, one with salt), perfume bottle filled with diluted apple cider vinegar, prank phone call conversation (taped to a spare cell phone), Jack in the box craft activity, "Urgent letter/Send the fool further" message, hand buzzer toy, fake bug for gag toy

Optional item: Box covered in Post-it notes or saran wrap (to imitate popular April fool's pranks)

Additional Equipment/ Supplies Required: Jewelry or ring boxes/a small box with hinges, brightly colored paper strips (~1" wide), picture for the Jack in the box, stapler/tape/glue, small cups to hand out mixed candies (given that none of the participants are allergic to peanut butter or chocolate), additional sheets of paper to make "April fish"

### **Activities:**

Visual: It's recommended to start the session off with the joke "Why are people so tired on April 1<sup>st</sup>?" (Wait for response) "Because they just got finished a 31-day March!" Hand out the various joke books and have each participant flip open to a random page, and if possible, have them read the funniest joke on the page. Instructor can then explain about a brief history on April fool's day. This includes the "Urgent/Confidential" letter (a popular prank in Scotland/Ireland) that is delivered by a messenger ("the fool"/ "the gowk") that sends the messenger on a never-ending journey, as the letter reads "Send the fool further." Another April 1<sup>st</sup> tradition in French-speaking countries is to play Poisson d'Avril/ Pesce d'Aprile ("April Fish"). The object of the prank is to tape a paper fish onto a person's back without the "fool" noticing; once the person realizes the fish is on their back, the person that put it there has to yell "Poisson d'Avril/Pesce d'Aprile." This can also be a great craft for the participants. Have them make their own paper fish of any size, color or shape to prank someone else that day. Another purposeful activity that can be created with the participants is a mini Jack-in-the-box which is included in the kit. To do this, each participant needs a hinged box, two strips of colored paper (about 1" wide and 1' long) and a 1"x1" picture of themselves or an image they will use for their "Jack." Have the clients take paper and make a 90° angle and staple the corners together. Then fold the papers over each other, alternating back and forth to make a little stack. When done folding, stretch the papers up to make them more "springy." Tape desired image to the top of the paper and tape the bottom to the inside of the small box. When the "fool" opens the box, the Image will pop up at them. \* Note: Use example in box or there is a very simple video about how to make the craft available on YouTube if necessary

Auditory: Inflate the Whoopee cushion prior to activity. Have one of the participants (with a good sense of humor) stand up and create a distraction (ex: have them close their eyes for three seconds and spin around once) while you place the inflated whoopee cushion on their chair. Therefore, when they sit down, the toy deflates creating a "fart noise" that other participants may find funny. Additionally, to gain attention of participants, shake the container of candy up for more auditory stimulation if necessary.

Tactile: Ask clients what their favorite pranks are to pull on April Fools' Day. The hand buzzer can be handed out and have the participants shake hands with each other to test it out (it only buzzes, does not shock). The fake cat poop is a fun gag that could be placed on the floor and

Kelley Crossland

11/12/15

asked to be picked up by a participant, or place it in the bowl of candy to “gross out” the participants. There is a fake centipede that can also be put in the candy bowl or tossed near someone’s feet in attempt to spook them. Users can also hold and read the lion-washing ceremony ticket in their hands (mentioned above).

Smell: Explain to the participants that a popular April Fools’ Day prank is to replace items with other things that look like them to trick other people (ex: sugar vs salt shaker or the fake perfume). Have the participants take the cap off of the perfume bottle and smell around the pump to notice that it still smells like “Warm Vanilla Sugar body spray.” Then have them spray it into the air, on a piece of paper, or open the bottle to smell the contents inside. Ask the participants to guess what is actually inside the bottle based on the smell (it is diluted apple cider vinegar).

Taste: Have the participants approach the table to pick up a cup and scoop up some candy from the candy dish. Have them taste a few pieces together and ask them to describe the flavors they are tasting and what kind of candy they think is in their cup. This can be confusing, as the candy bowl contains three different types of candy (Skittles, Reese’s pieces, and M+M’s) which have conflicting tastes. Explain that this is a popular prank to pull, especially in offices. Optionally, have the clients try to sort the candy in their cup into the three types. Additionally, there are two salt shakers in the kit, but one has sugar in it and the other actually has salt. Explain that swapping the salt and sugar is a popular prank to pull so that people put salt in things they actually wanted sugar in. Have participants guess which shaker is which and possibly have them try a little shake (on clean hands) to figure out which is which. \*Note to instructor: the salt container has the letters NaCl written in a small print on the bottom.