



## SOUVENIR SHOP

### Materials you need:

- Bench or table
- Pictures of aquarium centres, photos of sealife
- Cash registers, brown paper bags, money (or use pebbles)
- Small ocean and beach themed props that children can 'buy' in the aquarium souvenir shop – you don't need to stick to a sealife theme, why not change your shop around every week to suit a current interest or learning focus.
- If you are short on props collect boxes of different sizes, wrap in butchers or brown paper then stick on pictures from magazines and write the price on the other side.

### Setup for play:

- Set up your shop ready for play. Get creative but keep it very simple – this is to interest the children, not Pinterest or Instagram!
- Set out the boxes, soft toys, books, figurines and anything else you want to include in the shop in baskets on shelves or tubs on the ground. Add a checkout area using the bench, top of shelving or table. Place shopping baskets and brown paper bags close by to take away purchases.
- Talk about gift shops and where the children may have already visited one with their family. What do they think should go in a gift shop?
- You could watch the [1<sup>st</sup> minute of this you tube video](#) for gift shop inspiration or [be shown around a zoo gift shop here](#) as the kids explore!

### What are they learning with this activity?

As the children set up and engage in shop dramatic play they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Work independently on a project
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Use real and imaginary technologies as props in their play
- Express their ideas creatively to help make meaning
- Understand basic position concepts
- Become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category.
- Work together in a group with others, negotiate, problem solve.
- Comprehend and responds to a story presented through video
- Engage with technology for fun and to make meaning.

### Extending the play:

- You could provide a basket of props and encourage the children to set up their own gift/souvenir shop as a group project. They could make their own drawings and signs to display around the shop as well as a group project.

