

## ACTIVITY FORMULA FOR SUCCESS-

**Name of project:** Betta Fish Vase

**Focus area/type of project:** Horticultural / Creative

**Project is appropriate for what resident level:** all levels can participate

**Materials needed and cost of project:**

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 10 ¾" vase with 4" plastic pot saucer                               | \$2.97         |
| 2 packages of decorative gem stones                                 | 2.00           |
| 1 Male Betta fish   | 3.00           |
| 6" plant-use a Peace Lilly, or Dieffenbachia, or water loving plant | 3.00           |
| Betta fish food   | 1.00           |
| 1 gallon of bottled water   | 1.00           |
| <b>Total Cost-</b>  | <b>\$12.97</b> |

Also needed: plastic forks, gloves, tap water, wash basins, trays, towels

**Procedure:** Set residents up around a table, use a wash basin and have them rinse the vase and gemstones in hot tap water to remove any dust or particles that might be harmful to the fish. Remove plant from the pot, and remove the dirt from the roots. (have the residents wear gloves, and using a plastic fork works well to get the dirt off) Rinse the plant roots to get all of the dirt off. Trim the bottom of the roots so they are neat and even. Cut an X in the bottom of the plastic saucer, pull the roots through the X, and place it aside. Place ¾ of the gemstones in the bottom of the vase. Pour the room temperature bottled water into the vase, about 1" below the neck of the vase (you will use approx. 2/3 of the water) Gently place the fish into the Vase. Put the plant with plastic saucer in the top of the vase, be sure that the roots of the plant are in water. Place remaining gemstones into the saucer. Tie a decorative bow around the vase if desired. Feed the fish every other day.

**Adaptations:**

You can use lukewarm tap water instead of bottled water, and add a few drops of water conditioner to the vase. water conditioner is available from the pet store.

**Precautions:**

The plants are poisonous so keep them away from residents who might ingest them.

**Time needed for preparation and Completion of Project:** You can purchase most of the supplies at Walmart, and a pet store for the fish. The group time for this project is approximately 1 hour.

We made several of these at time, and used them as a way to raise funds for future gardening projects.

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