

## Seaside Rock / Snake Wand

# Seaside Rock / Snake Wand

by Peter Gardini

Here is another children's routine with lots of laughs. This has been used for over twenty five years but the children still enjoy it.

### **You will need**

A large cardboard postal tube. One end cap should be permanently glued in place.

My original tube was painted black and white to look like a magic wand but when I stopped using magic wands in my shows I painted it to look like one of those very large sticks of seaside rock..

A large coloured head scarf. You can pick these up for about 50p in the charity shops.  
Three or four spring snakes which are capable of being fitted inside the postal tube.

An 18 inch length of plastic conduit or white tubing painted the same colour as the postal tube.

An 8 inch length of dowel painted the same colour as the postal tube. This should fit loosely inside the plastic conduit.

### **To set up the seaside rock / snake wand**

Place the small coloured length of dowel inside the plastic conduit and slide them inside and to the bottom of the postal tube.

Insert the three spring snakes singly on top of these and then push the coloured head scarf into the postal tube.

Finally place the loose plastic end cap into the postal tube.



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### Patter and routine

“My sister is always playing tricks on me but the other day she went to the seaside and brought me back a huge stick of seaside rock. Would you like to see it?”

Show the children the large stick of rock and then give it a shake. They will hear the plastic conduit rattling around inside.

“Shall I look inside? Are you sure that it will be all right? Nothings going to jump out at me is it?”

Take of the loose plastic cap and look pleased when you see what is in the tube. The head scarf will stop the snakes coming out.

“Oh look it’s a beautiful head scarf. I can give that to my mum for her birthday”

Pull out the head scarf keeping your thumb part way across the mouth of the tube. This will prevent the snakes from shooting out until you are ready.



When you wish to do so, remove your thumb from the mouth of the tube to release the snakes. Look frightened and shout out. The children will laugh at this point. The more you ham it up the more they will laugh.

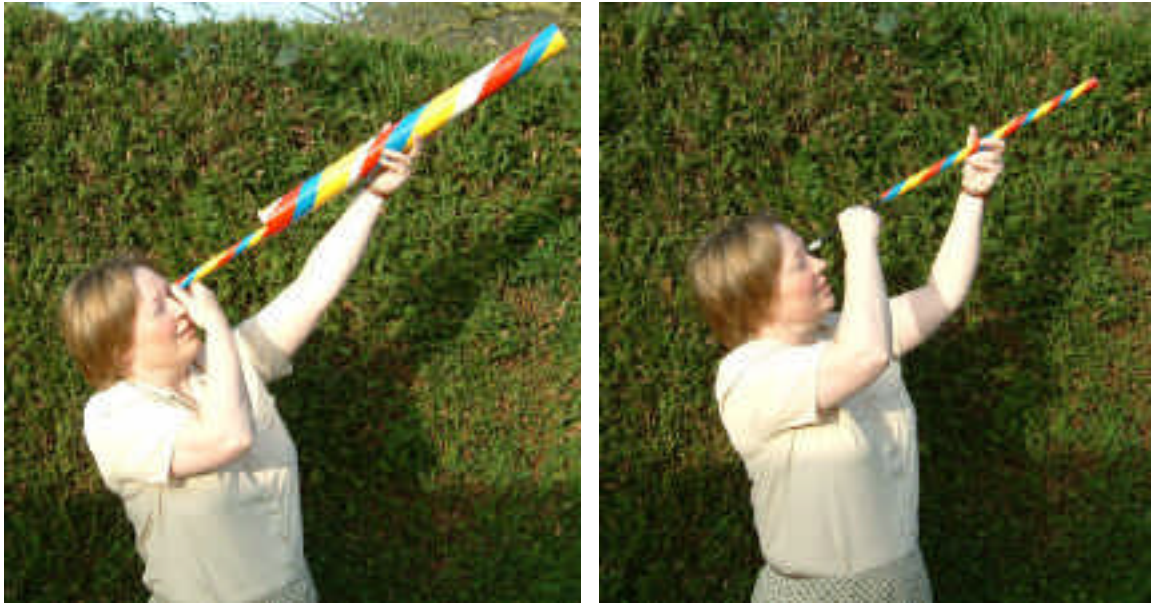
You can even pick the snakes up off the floor and throw them away again just to emphasise the point that you are scared of snakes.

Shake the postal tube again and the children will hear a louder rattle this time.

“There’s still something inside. Do you think that I should look inside?” Look nervous as you say this. “Do you promise that nothing is going to jump out at me if I look inside?”

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Hold the postal tube up with the open end pointing down and allow the plastic tube with the wooden dowel inside it to slide out and hit you (supposedly) in the eye. Shut your eye just before it touches your face.



Shout out as though you are in great pain. Again the more you ham this up the more laughs you will get from the children (horrible little monsters).

Put the postal tube down so that you are left holding the plastic tube with the wooden dowel inside it. Shake the tube and the children will hear the wooden dowel rattling inside the tube.

“Oh dear it’s still making a noise, shall I look inside? Do you think that it will be OK this time? Nothing is going to jump out at me is it?”

Hold the plastic tube up and allow the wooden dowel to slide out and hit you (supposedly) in the eye. Again the children will laugh at the discomfort you are in.

Tell the children that your sister is very naughty for playing tricks on you and that you won’t let her play with your teddy bear any more.

In the last picture shown above I have replaced the wooden dowel with the small magic wand which I used to use with the original trick when it was all painted up as magic wands instead of seaside rock..

Have fun

God bless

Peter