

Play Dough Activity Ideas

Introduction

Play dough Provides many fantastic learning opportunities and is great for building fine motor skills. Play dough is a great tool to build and develop strength and control in the hands, fingers and wrists. This strength and control then supports the use of writing and scissors skills.

It also provides opportunities for

- Self-expression
- Imagination and creativity
- Building and strengthening fine motor skills
- Hand and eye co-ordination
- Problem solving
- Special awareness
- Social interactions and communication

Play dough activities

- Make a snake - Roll the dough into a sausage shape (rolling with 2 hands together) encourage child to use thumb and index finger (pincer grip) to pinch along the dough to make the snakes back.
- Make faces- roll the dough into a circle, encourage your child to use their index finger to make eyes, hair, nose, mouth and ears.
- Find the object– hide small beads/object in dough, encourage child to tear apart to find them.
- Make a dinosaur - Roll dough into a ball for the body squeezing it into an egg shape, roll another piece into a sausage shape to make a tail, for the spiky back make pinch marks all along back and tail.
- Make a flower - Roll out ball shapes, use one for the centre and flatten the rest around to make the petals, roll sausage shape for the stem.

[Playdough recipes](#)

[Playdough](#)

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 table spoon oil
- Add water for desired consistency

[Edible play dough for babies](#)

- 1 cup of Gluten free cornflour
- 1 1/2 cups of baby rice cereal
- 3tbs vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup pureed tin of raspberries in syrup
- 1 tbs water

[Different textured Playdough](#)

Try adding different things to your dough to make it more sensory/tactile. Below is a list of ideas you could use

- Sand
- Glitter
- Smelling oils
- Food colouring

[Playdough toolbox](#)

Having a playdough toolbox filled with props is a great way for easy set up of playdough ideas. Below is a list of items you could include

- Rolling pin
- Shape cutters
- Plastic knives
- Straws
- Dry pasta
- Buttons
- Shells



[Links / Useful Websites](#)

www.learning4kids.net

<http://theimaginationtree.com>

