

Having fun with playdough

We hope you enjoy using your playdough at home. This leaflet will give you some ideas of how it can be used to support children's learning.



Fiddly Fingers!

To help children with their writing and drawing, they must first build up the muscles in their hands and fingers. Using the playdough in all these different ways can help to do this.

Rolling the dough to make a sausage or snake



Squashing the dough flat



Squeezing the dough



Poking the dough with one finger



Rolling the dough into a ball



Other ideas for using your playdough

- Use a rolling pin to roll the dough flat. This will support your child's muscle development in their hands and wrists. Add simple biscuit cutters for them to make their own pretend biscuits.



- Add some items for imaginative play, such as cake cases, birthday candles, currants, pom-poms or buttons. Inserts from chocolate boxes are also great. You will be amazed what your child will come up with! All this helps your child to use talk in their play, and come up with their own ideas and stories.

- If your child is interested in using scissors, using children's scissors in the dough is a great place to start. They might like to roll out a sausage or snake shape and have a go at cutting it into pieces.

- Counting can always be added into all the above activities, to support this area of development, too.

Link to Dough Disco on youtube - www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K-CQrjIOuY



Ideas for keeping playdough tidy

- Use your playdough at the table. If you are worried about carpets, put down an old bed sheet, plastic sheet or bin liner to catch any pieces that fall
- If you don't have a table, your child could use a tray instead.
- Explain the 'rules' before you use the playdough, for example, if you want it to stay on the table.
- Try to make time to use the playdough together, even if it is just a few minutes. This will support your child's learning, and help to keep it tidy.

Playdough Recipe

Children love to help make their own playdough. Here is a recipe to try at home. Get creative with different scents, colours and glitter!

Ingredients:

2 cups plain flour
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
½ cup of salt
2 tablespoons cream of tartar
Up to 1 ½ cups of boiling water
Food colouring (optional)



Method:

1. Mix the flour, cream of tartar, salt and oil together in a large mixing bowl
2. If using food colouring, add it to the boiling water
3. Add the water to the dry ingredients, a little at a time, stirring continuously until it combines to make a sticky dough
4. Allow the dough to cool
5. Take the dough out of the bowl, and then knead for a few minutes until the stickiness has gone
6. You can add a little more flour if the mixture remains sticky after this

We would love to see what you do with your playdough. Please send some photos to your class email:

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