

Play dough is fun!

Play dough supports

Children to:



- **Develop fine motor physical skills for using hands and tools**
- **Develop hand– eye co-ordination**
- **Talk about shapes space and size.**
- **Understand and learn to use new vocabulary**
- **Interact and negotiate ideas with other children and adults.**
- **Be creative and think imaginatively.**
- **Suggest ideas and problem solve.**
- **Explore and learn how to use tools and materials safely and with control.**

Ideas for Play dough

There are many things you can do with play dough at home



- Make play dough in different colours by adding food colouring
- Add different textures and scents to encourage children to use sensory play e.g. add glitter, rice, baby oil, ginger
- Explore changing the dough with hands—use words such as poke, squeeze, pull, twist, roll, squash
- Explore flattening dough with hands or other objects. Try using textured rolling pins or surfaces. You could put string on a rolling pin and see what happens. Use lego/duplo, colanders, anything with a texture. Talk about the shapes and patterns imprinted.
- Use cutters of different sizes, talk about the shapes and sizes big, bigger, smaller.
- Roll the play dough into shapes and join them together –e.g. snowmen
- Roll shapes and carefully use plastic tools to cut thinly, thickly etc

Play dough recipe

There are many ways to make play dough but we find this recipe the best.

2 cups of plain flour

1 cup of salt

2 cups of water

2 tablespoons of oil

2 teaspoons of cream of tartar

(to stop play-dough being too sticky)

Ice cream tub or similar to store. Play-dough will keep for up to 2 weeks

- Mix all ingredients together.
Either
- Boil in a heavy saucepan, stirring continuously until resembles scrambled egg
- or**
- Put in microwave for 2 minutes. Stir, and then return to microwave until firm to touch.
- Take care lifting as will be extremely hot.
- Empty onto a floured surface and knead into ball when cooled

Suggestions for play dough resources



- Plastic chopping board /mat
- Children's plastic cutlery
- Food cutters
- Pastry or pizza wheel
- Small plastic rolling pin
- Storage container
- Plastic apron
- Large heavy saucepan or large microwavable bowl

Safety points to consider

- Do not leave young children unattended when playing with play dough as they are only beginning to learn about using tools safely.
- Children should be taught:**
- Scissors and tools are dangerous and need to be transported and used safely.
- Play dough is not a food and must not be put in mouths, noses or other body parts
- Wash hands after using play dough to stay safe from germs.
- If play dough is dropped on the floor it should be picked up so it does not ruin surfaces

