

Playdough

Classic fun that helps development

Squishing, rolling, sculpting, moulding ...
young children love to play with
playdough.

Add some props from around the home
and playdough play becomes a powerful
way to support your child's learning.

This simple preschool staple lets children
use their imaginations and strengthen the
small muscles in their fingers—the same
muscles they will one day use to hold a
pencil and write.

Using playdough with you, a friend, or
siblings supports your child's social skills
such as sharing, taking turns, and enjoying
being with other people.

Playdough also encourages children's
language and literacy, science, and math
skills—all at the same time!



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Playdough

Make Your Own

It's a lot easier than you think and you can get the kids involved in making it!

You will need:

- 8 tbsp flour
- 2 tbsp salt
- 60ml warm water
- food colouring
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil



Method:

- Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. In a separate bowl mix together the water, a few drops of food colouring and the oil
- Pour the coloured water into the flour mix and bring together with a spoon.
- Dust a work surface with a little flour and turn out the dough. Knead together for a few minutes to form a smooth, pliable dough. If you want a more intense colour you can work in a few extra drops of food colouring.
- Store in a plastic sandwich bag (squeeze out the air) in the fridge to keep it fresh.



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Playdough

Lots of Ideas

Chocolate Playdough

One of my personal all time favourite playdough activities is making pretend chocolate biscuits and cupcakes in the role play kitchen.

Just add a bit of chocolate into the mixture instead of food colouring.

Sometimes I even add a bit of orange zest for a Terry's theme or peppermint flavouring works very well too.

It gets the senses bursting!

(If you are worried about children eating it then you can take the salt out of the recipe, it just may not last as long.)



Robot Playdough

Who doesn't like making robots? Add a bit of glitter and black colouring to the mixture and lay out with some beads and pipecleaners or sticks.



Playdough

Lots of Ideas

Table Forest Scene

Use green playdough to make stands for your collected leaves and sticks.

Add figurines to the set - animals, people or fairies.

Draw and cut out bugs, animals, the sun.

Add blue material or playdough to the scene to make a river.

Delve into your own minature forest.



Leaf Printing

Winter, Summer, Autumn or Spring - this is such a great way to explore different leaves and nature prints.

Flowers can be used too.



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Playdough Volcano

MATERIALS:

- A plate, platter or dish for the base
- A jar or empty plastic bottle
- Playdough
- Nature items like flowers, sticks, leaves, and pebbles
- Lava:
 - 2 tablespoons baking soda
 - Washing up liquid
 - Red food colouring
 - Vinegar
 - Warm water

Method:

- Shape the volcano by wrapping playdough around the jar/bottle
- Then add landscaping to Mt. Fuji. Poke various nature items into the playdough to create trees, flowers, and bushes.
- Make the Baking Soda Volcano "Lava"
 - First, mix red food colouring with warm water
 - Then pour it into the jar hidden inside the volcano.
 - Add six drops of dish soap, two tablespoons of baking soda, and then the vinegar.
 - And watch her BLOW



Playdough

Lots of Ideas

3D Playdough Heads

Use a bowl or cut the bottom off a used plastic bottle.

Cover the bowl/bottle with one colour then use utensils to make different textures to make the hair and features. You could add googly eyes, paper cut outs or buttons to help with the different features.



Playdough Letters & Numbers

Great for learning letters, phonics and numbers.

Print out or draw letters on paper then let the children make snakes to outline the letters while they learn the sounds and shapes.



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