

Literacy Fun with Playdough

It is important to help children develop the skills they need to work with their hands. Building hand and eye coordination is an important first step in developing writing skills. For a fun, hands-on family activity, make your own play dough!

Playdough can be used in all types of learning adventures. Try out some of the ideas below or let your imagination run wild!

ART

- Make sculptures with different shapes.
- Push the dough flat and place it on paper to create raised pictures.



LITERACY

- Roll the play dough into long "snakes" & make letters.
- Write names, favourite toys, and other familiar letters/ words in the dough with your finger.

SCIENCE

- Press leaves into the play dough to get an imprint, and explore the structure and design of each leaf.



PRACTICE WITH TOOLS

- Playdough can be cut with scissors, poked with forks, rolled with rolling pins, or shaped with cups...take a look around your house to find tools that your child can use to shape the dough.



No Cook Playdough

Ingredients

- 2 cups plain flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- ½-1 cup cold water
- 2 drops food colouring

Method

- STEP 1 Combine plain flour and salt
- STEP 2 Add water, food colouring and oil. Mix until ingredients are combined.
- STEP 3 Knead well.
- STEP 4 If consistency is too wet add a little plain flour.



Playdough Learning Mats

Create your own playdough mats by colouring or cutting out a favourite picture and cover it with clear contact paper. On them children can practice counting, measuring, sorting, comparing, ordering, matching, letter recognition and formation and general creative good fun! Squeezing, rolling and smashing play dough is a great way to help kids prep for writing. See the links below for some learning mat ideas and printables.

<http://theimaginationtree.com/2012/06/play-dough-learning-mats-for-literacy.html>

<http://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/literacy/playdough-mats-literacy>

<http://www.primarytreasurechest.com/playdough-mats/literacy-playdough-mats.htm>

