

Welcome! to the first month of **2007** and
our new page of play and craft ideas for your
childminding setting



Why not go back to basics and have some fun
together making play dough!

What you will need:-

1. Some good recipes (see below). You can add colour and smells with food colouring, powder paint and food flavours.
2. Enough dough, melon sized, to pound, pull, pinch and punch for each child.
3. A wipe clean surface.
4. Offering dough on its own is important. Later little rolling pins (sawn up brush shaft), cutters, blunt knives, spoons and rakes can be set out with the dough.
5. Lidded air-tight containers for storage.



Here's how to make it!

IDEAS

BASIC DOUGH

3 cups plain flour
1 cup salt
Water to mix (food colour added)
Mix all together to a pastry consistency

This does not keep well.

COOKED DOUGH

4 cups plain flour
2 cups salt
2 teaspoons cream of tartar
4 cups water (food colour added)
½ cup cooking oil
Mix in saucepan, stir over medium heat until mixture thickens & combines into one lump.
Tip onto pastry board & when cool knead smooth.
This keeps well, in an airtight container.

MODELLING DOUGH

2 cups plain flour
2 cups salt
2 tablespoons wallpaper paste (non fungicidal)
1 cup water
Mix ingredients & knead until smooth.
Make shapes and models and allow them to harden overnight, then bake in oven at 200⁰ F or 100⁰C for 3 - 4 hours.



Before allowing the children to make or play with playdough, ensure that

- all hands are washed
- Play surface is clean and protected
- You have enough equipment for everyone to fully participate

Why do we use play dough?

What is your role?

1. Let the children assist you with mixing up the dough.
2. To have the dough and other implements ready for the child.
3. To encourage your child and admire his / her efforts.
4. To be on hand to offer the right words if required - and give ideas to extend the play.

Why dough play?

1. Children love playing with it. It can be very soothing!
2. It is very versatile, cheap and easily made at home.
3. Touch is a sense young children use more than adults to experience and learn about their world. Through dough play, children begin to understand ideas of size, weight and volume while using fingers, hands and wrists.
4. Language development - big, little, long, short, flat, lumpy, more, less, shapes and eventually shades, colours and textures.



Disclaimer: Every parent or childminder must use their own judgment in choosing which activities are safe for their own children. While we make every effort to provide activity ideas that are safe and fun for children it is your responsibility to choose the activities that are safe in your own home.