

Playdough Power



..... *Structured Play*

Is an activity that is outcome based and usually adult-directed

VS.

..... *Unstructured*

Is an activity that is led by the child and having fun experiencing the activity

PLAY TIPS

Play that is unstructured, expressive and exploratory supports all areas of the child's development - this provides a foundation for later academic success.

Open-ended questions: Ask questions so children can describe and think about what they are doing. The questions we ask will help them think about approaching, planning, and extending their ideas.

Assessing feelings: How do you think...feels?

Making predictions: What will happen next?

Extend on thinking: What would happen if there were..?

Solving problems: What can you do about it?

Playdough Recipe

What you need:

1 cup water
 food colouring
 6 cups flour
 1 cup vegetable oil
 measuring cups
 mixing bowl
 wooden spoon

Directions:

Mix water and food colouring in the bowl

Add flour and oil

Stir

Knead until smooth

Variation:

For the first step, children can drop the food colouring in the water and watch the colour spread.

Note:

The dough can be reused; stored in the refrigerator in an airtight container.

Involving your child in making the playdough can lead to questioning and predicting skills. What will happen when we add the liquids to the solid items? This process also includes following instructions, measuring, stirring, mixing - a wonderful experience and opportunity to learn new skills.

Playdough Station Ideas to try at Home

Playdough Construction Site



Playdough Bakery



Open-ended Playdough Creations

A Playdough Station might also include open-ended items:

- Different colors of playdough
- Popsicle Sticks/straws
- Rocks
- Shells
- Pipe cleaners
- Rolling pin
- egg cartons
- Googly eyes
- Paper plates
- Twigs/Leaves
- Scissors
- Lemon Squeezer
- Container/boxes
- Muffin tins

Playdough play supports the development and learning in many areas.

Social and Emotional:

Playdough play lets children feel proud of their creations. Flattening, squeezing, rolling, stretching are great outlets for releasing emotional energy and working through emotions that stir us up.

Playdough play allows children to share with others what they are making and how. Ask your child questions so they can describe, think and problem solve. Invite siblings or a friend to share in the play as an opportunity to teach cooperation and sharing.

Creativity and Imagination:

Building and creating let children express ideas. When you add open-ended items to the mix, children use their imagination to build and make. By providing different objects, it will naturally lead to playing, sorting, matching, counting and engaging in play in a whole new way.

Fine and Gross motor skills :

When children play with playdough, they use hands, fingers, and tools to pound, push, poke, shape, flatten, roll, cut, and scrape. They also gain strength and improve dexterity in their hands and fingers, critical areas of physical development for writing, drawing, eating, getting dressed etc.

Language/literacy development:

Playdough plays help children build their vocabulary, learn new words, and express their thoughts and ideas. Children use language to invent stories about their playdough creations. You may notice your child using ideas from books you've read together or adventures your family has been on.