

PLAY-DOH



Play-Doh—it's the childhood favorite that every parent loves (and loves to hate for its messiness). This modeling clay was originally made as a wallpaper cleaner in the 1930s but was reborn as an educational toy in the 1950s. Play dough is the perfect toy for kids of all ages because it is non-toxic and reusable.

Benefits for Children

- Feel competent
 - Proud of their accomplishments
 - Outlet for extra energy
 - Help children cope with strong feelings
 - Sensory processing
 - Compare and contrast
 - Imagination
 - Practice listening and talking
 - Fine-motor skill development
 - Hand-eye coordination
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Basic Play-Doh Recipe

- 1 cup white flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 cup water
- Food coloring and/or spices as desired

Combine dry ingredients in a medium-size pan. Mix well. Add water, oil and food coloring if desired. Mix well. Cook over medium heat stirring constantly for several minutes. Mixture will thicken and begin to clump. Continuing stirring until large clump forms. Remove from heat. Allow to cool enough to handle. Knead dough for several minutes or until texture is smooth and consistent. Store in sealed plastic container or bag.

Around-the-House Playdough Props

Squishing, rolling, sculpting, molding . . . 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.

- Bottle caps
 - Cookie cutters
 - Combs
 - Garlic press (be prepared to give it up forever)
 - Large buttons and other objects that can be pressed into the playdough to make a design
 - Feathers, leaves, twigs, pebbles
 - Plastic knives, forks, and spoons
 - Rolling pin or bottle
 - Small toy people and animals
 - Straws, string or shoelaces
 - Tea strainer
 - Toothpicks (only for older children)
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Play-Doh Activities

Play-Doh dress up

Gather up some plastic animals and kids can give them a whole new look!

Play-Doh poke-ins

Poke in toothpicks to make all kinds of prickly creatures. Try straws, pipe cleaners, marker caps, googly eyes--all are fun to press in for kids.

Rolling snakes is fun but how about making other animals?

You could talk about what scares them and mold it together.

Stamping Play-Doh

Pressing things into Play-Doh is fun for kids to see the impression left behind.

Pretend play animal setup

Use the lid of a big or small plastic container to press Play-Doh into and create a pretend play setup for toddlers. Bring out some plastic animals and loose parts like corks, popsicle sticks and straws to add to the fun.

Make Play-Doh monsters

This is a great Play-Doh activity for all ages and you can certainly vary the loose parts offered depending on your child. Some fun options include: googly eyes, toothpicks, beads, pipe cleaners, cut straws and popsicle sticks.

Create a Play-Doh family

Observe who and how they create each family member.