



Each Term we shall be sharing the benefits of different activities and how your children learn and develop whilst they are playing.

Term 3 is Playdough. You can buy playdough readily but actually the children all enjoy helping to make the dough. It is a very social activity in the Nursery that makes great conversation.

How to make Coloured Playdough

Materials

- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 tablespoon cream of tartar
- Food coloring
- Saucepan
- 1 cup flour

Directions

1. Combine all of the ingredients and your chosen food colouring in a saucepan and heat until warm.
2. Keep stirring as the mixture thickens and comes together; take it off the heat and leave to cool. Once the mixture has cooled knead until smooth. The cream of tartar makes this dough last longer, so resist the temptation to omit this ingredient if you don't have it on hand.
3. Store this dough in an airtight container or a Ziploc freezer bag.

How a playdough activity can support the areas of the EYFS:

Personal social Emotional Development

Playing with dough can be a very social activity. Whilst playing they are discussing what they are making and sharing the materials. They take turns waiting for equipment.

Communication Language

The play dough table always has a crowd of children at it. Conversing about what they are making and what they can do with their dough. The children often like to cut out shapes and put the dough into cake tins then pop them in the pretend oven.

This imaginary play all promotes language and lots of lovely new words as the dough is squashed, kneaded and squeezed. The actual act of making the play dough together with your child can lead to lots of questioning and prediction skills. Here we have some solid materials (flour, salt etc.) to which we are going to add some liquids (oil, water.) What do you think will happen? What can we make? Your child gets to explore and observe the changing state of materials in a hands-on way, and be filled with wonder as the bowl of unrelated ingredients comes together to form a sticky then smooth and squishy ball of dough! We often take these things for granted, but in the eyes and hands of a child that's quite some transformation.

Physical Development

Poking in objects and pulling them out of play dough strengthens and supports a child's hand muscles and co-ordination.

As playdough is a very tactile play it can be squashed, squeezed, rolled, flattened, chopped, cut, scored, raked, poked and shredded! Each one of these different actions aids fine motor development in a different way, hand-eye co-ordination and aids concentration. The flexible properties of play dough make it fun for investigation and exploration as well as building up strength in all the tiny hand muscles and tendons, making them ready for pencil and scissor control later on.

Mathematics and Literacy

Mixing up a new batch of play dough with adults is one way in which play dough engages children in mathematical learning as they measure and count recipe ingredients. Discussions about shape, make comparisons, relative size (greater than, equal to, or less than), height, length, and weight provide additional opportunities for children to develop mathematical understandings. Children can form letters of the alphabet, spell out their own name, make numbers, form 2D and 3D shapes.

Understanding the World

Whilst using their imagination children imitate and copy everyday actions and events from their own family and cultural background.

Expressive Arts and Design.

Playdough supports your children in their imaginative play. As soon as you introduce open ended play items to add to the mix, play dough becomes the perfect medium for numerous types of imaginative play and can represent so many things in a child's eyes.

Above all have fun trying out his activity!