



101

ATOMS
EDUCATION

MESSY PLAY IDEAS

with



ACTIVITY

PLAYDOUGH ART

You will need:

- Playdough (See our Science Ninja activity card for the recipe)
- Loose parts e.g. shells, curtain hoops, stones, pine cones, twigs etc (Ensure the loose parts are age appropriate and do not pose a choking hazard for young children)
- Tubs or pots
- A rolling pin.

Set up:

Make up the playdough if needed. Place a variety of loose parts in tubs on the table and put the dough into smaller balls. Place the rolling pin on the table for the children to access independently.

Demonstrate how to roll the dough to make a 'canvas' for your art.

You may want to add or change resources to develop progression over a period of time.

Remember to take photographs of your child's work and then you can re-use the resources!

This activity is most suitable for children aged 3-5 years. It is a fabulous activity for creating opportunities for developing speech and communicating with your child. It would be recommended that you play opposite your child so that you have good eye contact and they can see you when you talk.

PREP TIME: 5-10 MINS

EARLY LEARNING

3-4 YEARS

At this age, your child may begin to experiment with different ways of expressing themselves. Using art is a perfect opportunity for children to do this. Your child may use the shapes of the objects to represent something else e.g. the curtain hoop is the dinosaur's big belly. This supports imagination - which in turn supports children's ability to problem solve and to be creative in their future writing.

By using playdough, you are developing muscle strength in your children's hands and arms which will support your child in their future learning - including pencil control.

Through talking to your child during the activity, you can demonstrate vocabulary and talk about the shape/size/colour of objects and give examples of using the objects to create a picture or pattern. This supports your child's mathematics development and their speech.

4-5 YEARS

Your child may begin to use objects and materials in unique ways. They may be imaginative and independently create pictures using objects. They may demonstrate that they have their own ideas and will represent them in different ways. At this stage, you could let your child be creative with different tools e.g. cutters, textured paper, objects they can print with etc. You could demonstrate how to make 3D art and build using the playdough and the materials.

Allowing them to explore and experiment with different tools and ways of using the dough will help your child with their creativity and will develop their curiosity. This will support their independence in their future learning and will help to develop resilience when they begin to see that their experimenting may not always work the way they want it to. This is an important aspect of learning for all children.