



Why is it such a good tool for learning?

Playdough is great for developing those fine motor skills. Children really need to have strong muscles in their hands for writing, cutting and other tasks. Think of all the actions they can achieve using playdough to build muscle strength; roll, flatten, chop, cut, poke, pinch, cut, pound and manipulate. These actions support muscle development, building stamina and strength in fingers and wrists ready for writing.



Playdough is great for the imagination. There is no end to what children can pretend with playdough, especially if you have the right props. Props? Yes the secret to making play dough fun is having other toys to go with it, plastic cars, toy animals, utensils, blocks, sticks, buttons. The list is never ending. You'd be amazed at all the things you already have at home that you can pair with the dough. All children like to make cakes/cookies and pretend to cook them and eat them.



If your child needs some quiet time or calming time encourage them to the table with some playdough. For many children it's a great emotional outlet.

Playdough really engages the senses, which is so important for young children. When you use playdough with different media (buttons, pasta, rocks and more) you create a multi - sensory experience. You can take it further and add food scented drops to create different smells with playdough as well as adding herbs like lavender and rosemary sprinkles or glitter to create experiences with different textures.



Using playdough can develop your child's social skills and language. Talk to your child about what they are doing or making. If they are playing with a friend or sibling, they will have opportunities to interact, share and take turns. Encourage your child to describe the dough to you, what does it feel like? What shapes can you make? This is a great activity to enhance and develop communication skills.

Using play dough regularly will help to increase your child's listening skills and concentration span.

We know that young children are oriented towards sensory experiences. From birth, children have learned about the world by touching, tasting, smelling, seeing and hearing. Sensory play also contributes in crucial ways to brain development. Think of it as "food for the brain" Stimulating the senses sends signals to a child's brains that helps to strengthen neural pathways important for all types of learning. For example, as their sense of touch, which lays the foundation for learning other skills, such as identifying objects by touch, and using both gross and fine motor muscles.

Exploring different textures may have many sensory attributes, they may be warm, cool, wet, dry, rough or smooth, hard or soft, textured or slimy. Discovering and differentiating these characteristics is a first step in classification, of sorting – an important part of pre-schoolers' science and discovery.

Overall it is fun! Have a go, if you do not want to make your own the readymade kind is available in many places to purchase. ENJOY!



2 Cups of Plain Flour

Half a cup of Salt

2 Table spoons of Cream of Tartar

4 Table Spoons of Vegetable Oil

2 Cups of Boiling water from Kettle

Mix straight away with wooden spoon

With the oil you can add food colouring, spices, herbs etc.

Knead the dough until it is all mixed and cool

Keep in plastic bag for up to one week