

2b

"Make Your Own Play Dough"

Lesson

Plan





Learning Objectives

1. Understand that children develop eye/hand coordination and concepts of shapes and forms when playing with play dough.
2. Practice making play dough for young children.
3. Observe children's reactions to the activities led with the play dough.

Intended Audience

4-H Club members enrolled in *4-H Child Development* or who have young siblings.



Supplies & Resources Needed

- Lesson plan outline
- Large bowl
- 2 ½ cups flour
- ½ cup salt
- 3 tablespoons cooking oil
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 tablespoon alum
- 2 packages of any flavor unsweetened Kool-Aid
- Cookie cutters
- Plastic knives
- Rolling pins, pastry wheels, and other kitchen objects
- Measuring cups
- Airtight container
- Method to boil water



References

Purdue University Extension. (2005). *4-H Child Development Activity Guide Level B, Building Blocks of Learning* (4-H 974). West Lafayette, IN.

Projected Length

30-45 minutes

Instructor Notes

You may want to consider inviting some preschool children to come to your 4-H Club meeting to enjoy the play dough.



Objective 1

Understand that children develop eye/hand coordination and concepts of shapes and forms when playing with play dough.



When working with children you have the opportunity to help them learn as well as have fun. This lesson shows how a simple activity such as playing with play dough can help a child develop several skills. Let's take a look!

Children enjoy the sensory experience of pounding, rolling, and shaping play dough. Play dough helps children develop eye/hand coordination and build concepts of form and shape. Art activities such as working with play dough build connections in the brain. Art activities build cognitive skills such as understanding cause and effect and problem solving. They also require "small motor" or "fine motor" movements, which are little movements with fingers. Play dough is an example of a fine motor activity.

Children learn through their senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. Each time a child uses a sense, a connection or path is made in the brain. When children have different experiences, or repeat an experience, the brain connections become stronger. All of these experiences and connections help determine the way children learn, behave, feel, and act.

Objective 2

Practice making play dough for young children.



The recipe below is an easy one for making play dough. While you could purchase play dough, this option is less expensive and is a great activity to do with a young child!

Make the no-cook recipe for "Fool-Proof Play Dough."

- 2 ½ cups flour
- ½ cup salt
- 3 tablespoons cooking oil
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 tablespoon alum
- 2 packages of any flavor unsweetened Kool-Aid

Mix dry ingredients in large bowl. Add oil and water. Stir quickly, mixing well. When cool, mix with hands. Store in an airtight container.

Cooked play dough will keep for several weeks when stored in an airtight container.



Objective 3

Observe children's reactions to the activities led with the play dough.



Watching children play with the play dough can be very interesting! You'll see them experiment with various shapes and structures and just have a good time playing!

Let a preschool child play with the play dough.

Children like to play with play dough using objects such as cookie cutters and plastic knives. They also can use rolling pins and pastry wheels. What other kitchen objects can you think of? Remember to keep it safe.

Children can learn math skills by playing with play dough. Have the child make balls and ropes out of dough. Have the child count the balls and then tell you which balls are smaller or larger. Have the child tell you which ropes are longer or shorter.

Group Discussion

Ask the group some of the following discussion questions.

- Was the play dough easy for the child to manipulate? What did the child make with it?
- Was the child able to make recognizable objects with the play dough?
- Did you have to show the child how to manipulate the play dough to make various objects?
- What are some other times in your life when it will be important to follow a set of instructions such as those for the play dough recipe?

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