

The Infants' Home

Child and Family Services

The Infants' Home at Home Series

Making Play dough

Ingredients

- 2 cups plain flour
- 1 cup salt
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil (or any oil would do)
- Food colouring/essence (optional)

Method

- Measure out dry ingredients and add to bowl
- Mix with spoon
- Add food colouring, oil and boiling water
- Combine and leave to cool
- Knead dough

Tip: Making the playdough is part of the learning experience. Work with your child to measure out ingredients and mix them, communicate with them, talk to them about the changes to the mixture, work through each step and encourage questions

Learning Opportunities

- Literacy and numeracy: Involving your child in reading and following the recipe, fosters your child's understanding of both numeracy and literacy
- Sensory experiences such as dough stimulate your child's sensory input and awareness, as they explore & notice the tactile/texture, and the pliability
- As children use their hands and fingers to mould, press, poke, roll and manipulate the dough, they are strengthening their fine motor skills and hand eye co-ordination.

Further Opportunities

- You might make various batches of 2-3 different colours : experimentation around the science of colours and the colour wheel
- Add loose parts.: these are often recycled items often found around the home, or within the natural environment. eg, bottle tops, they can inspire children's creativity, original thought, exploration and imagination

