Making play dough



Play dough is a great material to support learning in science, art and D&T. It can be made and used by children of all ages for a variety of activities such as:

- Making and using scientific models.
- A medium used to create works of art and when learning to sculpt.
- Making and adapting mock-ups of models and designs.

General safety with play dough

- Ensure children do not taste the dough.
- Ensure children wash their hands after the practical.
- If children make the dough themselves the temperature of the hot water used must not exceed 50°C

Make their own - child recipe

The finished amount will be a ball approximately 5cm in diameter. Children could each make a different colour and then trade with classmates so they have a variety of colours to use.

Equipment per child

- 2 tablespoons of salt
- ½ teaspoon of cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon of vegetable oil
- ¼ cup (4 tablespoons) hand hot water
- ½ cup plain flour
- I bowl
- I spoon

Equipment per class

- Measuring cups and spoons
- Cling film
- Food colourings
- Pipettes (if using regular food colouring)
- Coffee stirrers (if using gel food colouring)

Procedure

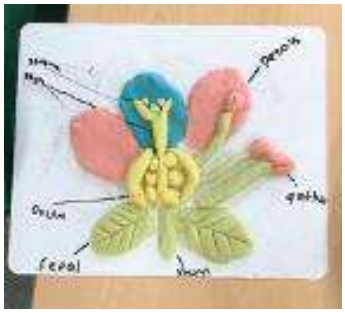
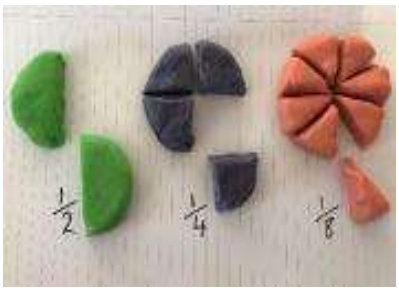


1. Measure the salt, cream of tartar, vegetable oil and sufficient food colouring (see ingredient notes) into the bowl.
2. Add ¼ cup of hot water and mix using a spoon.
3. Add the flour and mix again using the spoon to combine the ingredients.
4. Once combined use your hands to knead the dough until it is completely mixed and holds together.
5. If the mixture is too wet add more flour, too dry more warm water and knead again.
6. If making in advance, wrap in cling film until required.

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Inspiration for activities

Play dough is incredibly versatile and can be used in a raft of activities to promote imagination and creativity and to allow a child's ideas to be shared and explained.

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<tr><td>Modelling teeth</td><td>Modelling parts of a flower</td><td>Sculpture</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Modelling life cycles</td><td>Fractions</td><td>Inside our earth</td></tr>
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<tr><td colspan="2">Relative sizes of the planets</td><td>Mock-ups in DT projects</td></tr>
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Many thanks to Sarah Eames (PSTT Fellow) of Sandfield Close School, Leicester, for her inspiration and help with writing this resource.

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