

Making Playdough Monsters



Things your child will need to make playdough

- Flour, cup to measure
- Water
- Powder paint or food colouring, (tablespoon for paint or teaspoon for food colour)
- Wooden spoon
- Bowl

How to make Playdough

- Ask your child to measure 2 cups of flour into the bowl and then measure 1 cup of water (do not add the water yet)
- Add a tablespoon of powder paint to the flour - or if using food colouring add a few drops to the cup of water
- Add the cup of water to the bowl
- Mix the ingredients together with a wooden spoon into a bowl
- After this you need to use your hands and knead the dough like you would to make bread
- Add a sprinkling of flour to the table and you can keep adding a little more as required to stop the playdough from going sticky

To promote choice and introduce working with different textures you can add items such as

- Bottle caps
- Pom poms
- Pasta
- Straws
- Bubble wrap

Your child could use the dough to make playdough monsters. They can add faces, promoting learning about different emotions. They could use:

- Googly eyes
- Buttons
- Pipe cleaners

You could link this activity to The Colour Monster story. Your child can listen and to the story and see the pictures here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6wlEp-M4tg>

- Your child can make more than one batch of playdough and make them different colours with each colour representing a different emotion. They could use the colours in the book for example, yellow means happy.
- Discuss emotions with your child and ask them questions like 'Can you make a happy monster?' etc. This can be shown through colours or facial expressions on the monster's face, using other materials
- What's your monsters name?
- If you are using different materials such as a pasta nose. "What does the pasta feel like?" Introduce vocabulary for textures such as smooth or rough.
- You can also make one with one eye and give your child three eyes for their monster. Ask them 'Does your monster have more eyes than mine or less?' Promotes counting.
- "What materials are you going to pick?" Promotes choice

What are the children learning?

All these conversations and questions promote your child's language, understanding of emotions, their senses, fine motor skills, choice and imagination.

I am aware of and able to express my feelings and am developing the ability to talk about them. HWB 0-01a

I have the freedom to discover and choose ways to create images and objects using a variety of materials. EXA 0-02a

- **Use tools and equipment to develop increasing control of the fine movements of fingers and hands.**

As I listen and take part in conversations and discussions, I discover new words and phrases which I use to help me express my ideas, thoughts and feelings. LIT 0-10a

- **Share and record experiences and feelings, preferences, ideas and information in a variety of ways.**

I am developing a sense of size and amount by observing, exploring, using and communicating with others about things in the world around me. MNU 0-01a

- **Understand the meaning of "more than" and "less than".**
- **Estimating and rounding**