



# Dinosaur Bones



This activity is designed to engage your child in a fun exploration that involves using numeracy and literacy, while expressing their creativity.

## STEP 1

Help your child to measure the ingredients. Your child can follow the picture recipe to make the salt dough, then use the dough to form their dinosaur bones.

## Easy Salt Dough Recipe

[www.acraftyliving.com](http://www.acraftyliving.com)

### *Ingredients*

- 1 1/2 cup Plain Flour
- 1 cup Salt
- 3/4 cup Water

### *Steps*

1. Combine dry ingredients & mix.
2. Slowly add the water, mixing well to combine.
3. Flour your hands & the board before kneading the dough into a ball.
4. Roll out dough to desired thickness & cut out shapes with cookie cutters.
5. Place on baking paper & bake on low (50-100°C) for 2-3 hours or air dry for 2 days.



## Suggestion:

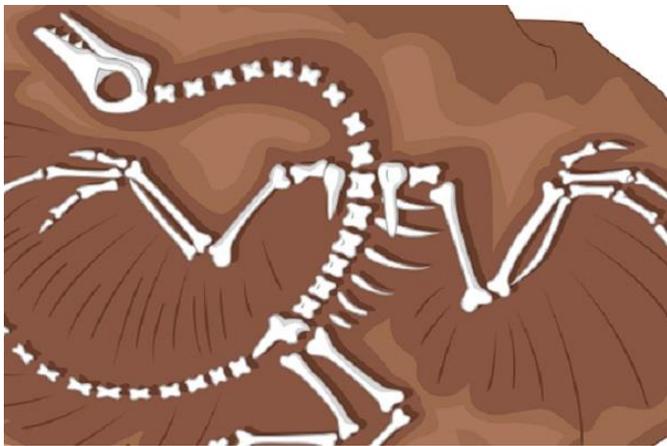
Provide a variety of different sizes utensils for your child to use as measurement (cup; teaspoon; tablespoon and a note pad and pen for your child to take notes or draw to record their findings.

Ask questions. Which spoon is bigger? How many teaspoons do you think it will take to fill the cup? Take a note of the number suggested,

then let your child experiment. Encourage them to count the number of spoons of water it took to fill the cup. Did they guess correctly? Repeat with the tablespoon and compare with the teaspoon results.

It's great to also talk about textures. Is the flour soft or rough? What does the salt feel like? How does your mix feel? Invite your child to record their findings. You could write the word for them to copy.

## **STEP 2**



After your mix is completed invite your child to start moulding their dinosaur bones from the dough! Talk about shapes. What shape do you think the bones are? Do you think the bones are all the same or different? What is your favourite shape? Have a look at

some pictures of dinosaur bones. It's always good to explore! The idea is that the bones will be different shapes and sizes. Bake them in the oven or allow them to air dry (see recipe for details).

## **STEP 3**

After the dinosaur bones have set it's time to explore. Take turns to hide the dinosaur bones. You might decide to do this around the house or even better in the garden. It's always a good idea to take a note of how many bones you have hidden and your child could tick off or make tally mark as you find the bones. You can hide them in a sand tray and use a small spade or paint brush to dust off the sand. Provide a bag or basket for your child to collect the bones.

## **STEP 4**

When you have collected all your dinosaur bones make sure to count and take a note of how many you found. You can now start to investigate and sort them by size. Write some labels for your sets - big/small or light /heavy. Talk about what the labels mean. Your child could add a drawing to their label.

### **Suggestions**

Using a measuring tape is a great idea for measurement and noting numbers.



Another great suggestion is homemade scales. This can also be exciting for you child! All you need is a coat hanger, 2 small buckets or yoghurt pots and some string. Talk about how balance scales work. Which is heavier? Which is lighter? Do any weigh the same?



Dinosaurs lived millions of years ago before there were people. You can watch this animation from the Natural History Museum to learn about how fossils help us learn about dinosaurs. (Talk about which parts in the video are facts and which are just for fun e.g. dinosaurs playing tennis or wearing boxing gloves).

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-are-fossils-formed.html>



### What are the children learning?

*I listen or watch for useful or interesting information and I use this to make choices or learn new things. **LIT 0-04a***

*I use signs, books or other texts to find useful or interesting information and I use this to plan, make choices or learn new things. **LIT 0-14a***

*I have experimented with everyday items as units of measure to investigate and compare sizes and amounts in my environment, sharing my findings with others. **MNU 0-11a***

*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***

*I am aware that different types of evidence can help me to find out about the past. **SOC 0-01a***

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

*I can create a range of visual information through observing and recording from my experiences across the curriculum.*

**EXA 0-04a**

*Through creative play, I explore different materials and can share my reasoning for selecting materials for different purposes. **SCN 0-15a***