

Play is the key way children learn about themselves, others and the world they live in. It is essential to their learning, development, health, and physical, mental and social well-being – and it's FUN! Play provides the building blocks to be ready for school.



## More fun with playdough

While children have fun making and playing with dough they are also expanding their creativity and understanding of size and space.

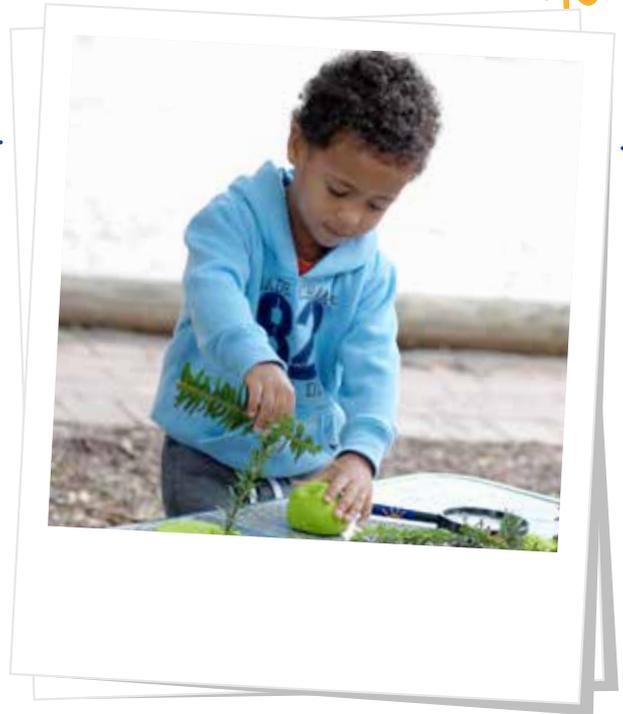
### Did you know?

Imagination and creativity can flourish as children have multi-sensory experiences. Try using objects with different textures, colours and shapes; like twigs, gumnuts and leaves while playing with playdough.

### Add language

Involving your child in making the dough gives them practice following instructions. If you have a recipe to follow they learn that instructions can be written down. It is also an opportunity for a conversation and thinking out aloud e.g. "What do you think will happen when we add the hot water?" "The dough is too sticky. What should we do?" "Let's see what happens if we mix the yellow and the red colours!"

Playdough and other creative play together gives your child time to talk about what they are planning, doing and creating.



### Other development

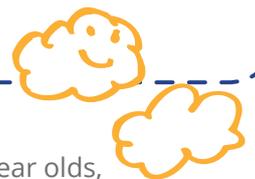
Mixing, kneading and shaping the dough promotes strong muscle development in the fingers, hands and wrists - especially important for pencil and scissor control later on. Introducing basic tools like a rolling pin, garlic press, scissors and other cutting implements can encourage and extend your child's interest in playdough. It also helps build those fine motor skills for school..

### Safety

Pay special attention to safety when using hot water when making playdough. Home-made playdough is safe to eat although discourage children from consuming large quantities.

📌 Playgroup WA has a treasure trove of play activities for babies, toddlers and 3-5 year olds, for home and playgroup. These play activities cover a balanced diet of play across sensory, movement, language and thinking skill areas.

You can find them at [www.playgroupwa.com.au/playideas](http://www.playgroupwa.com.au/playideas) or visit [www.facebook.com/playgroupwa](https://www.facebook.com/playgroupwa)



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## More fun with playdough Continued...

### Making Playdough

Here is a quick easy recipe which keeps well in the fridge for months:

#### Ingredients

1 cup salt  
2 cups plain flour  
2 tablespoons oil  
3 teaspoons cream of tartar  
2 cups boiling water  
colour if required

#### Method

1. Combine ingredients (except water) in a bowl.
2. Pour the boiling water and stir.
3. Knead lightly on table top.



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