

Playing with Playdough

Benefits of Playdough

Rolling, squeezing, pushing and pulling the playdough helps develop strong muscles in children's fingers and hands. As they roll small balls or long thin sausages they are training their fingers to separate and to move apart which will be needed for holding a pen. As they pretend to create meals for the family or objects they have found in the garden they are representing their ideas and knowledge and using language and images to share their ideas with others. When you play with your child they are listening to instructions and directions and learning to follow and respond to the information you are sharing.

Things to add

- Sticks
- Stones
- Feathers
- Gumnuts
- Popsicle sticks
- Garlic press
- Potato masher
- Stamps
- Whisk
- Googly eyes
- Plastic animals
- Cookie cutters
- Jar lids
- Wooden skewers
- Buttons
- Safety scissors
- Straws
- Wooden blocks
- Milk lids
- Silicon cupcake liners
- Beads

Language to use

- Long, short
- Thick, thin
- Big, little
- Top, bottom
- Next to, between
- First, last
- Red, green, yellow, blue
- 1, 2, 3
- Lots, many, few, more, less, enough

Questions to ask

- What are you making today?
- How many cakes have you made?
- How long do the cakes need to cook for?
- Which is the thinnest biscuit?
- How many cakes will you need to make so that each person in the family can have one?