

# Make your own Playdough

## Introduction

This super-easy playdough recipe is the perfect way to spend a rainy afternoon inside or to entertain children at a birthday party. It is quick enough to hold a young child's attention and you only need a few ingredients from your kitchen. Little hands can play with the results straightaway, so there's immediate enjoyment for all involved!

## The Science behind it!

Salt and flour combined together produce a mixture, they are physically combined but no reaction has taken place. When the water and food colouring mix completely they form a solution. When all the ingredients are heaped in together and kneaded, a new substance is formed because chemical reactions have taken place.

Watch this video to help you create your own playdough:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jv73CEzY1jg>



## What Science skills will my child learn from making homemade playdough?

Activity	Skills Learnt
Reading a recipe with words and visuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaches that print has a purpose</li> <li>• It is a time to use language</li> <li>• Teaches that symbols represent real things, such as the colour blue is a symbol for water, and two pictures of a measuring spoon represents using two spoons of an ingredient</li> <li>• Teaches units of measurement</li> </ul>
Handling and talking about the properties of the materials (e.g. dry, wet, liquid, powdery, oily)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaches vocabulary</li> <li>• Experience with materials</li> </ul>
Following the steps of a procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientists follow procedures for safety, and to reproduce the results of a first try</li> <li>• The order in which materials are mixed may affect the product</li> <li>• Measuring exactly takes practice</li> <li>• Children can practice self-control</li> </ul>
Mixing materials together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixing materials together can make a change, e.g. a material may get wet, clump together, or dissolve</li> </ul>
Playing with the play dough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During play children use their imagination, practice social skills, develop language skills, continue to explore the properties of the new material, and express themselves artistically</li> </ul>

## Experiment: Making playdough

### Equipment:



<p>2 Bowls</p> 	<p>Gloves</p> 	<p>Tablespoon</p> 
<p>8 tablespoons plain flour</p> 	<p>2 tablespoons of salt</p> 	<p>60 ml warm water</p> 
<p>4 drops of food colouring</p> 	<p>1 tablespoons of vegetable oil</p> 	<p>Plastic food bag</p> 

## Method

1. Put on gloves to protect your hands (optional)



2. Using a tablespoon, measure out the flour and salt and put into a bowl.  
Mix the flour and salt in the bowl



3. Measure out the warm water, oil and food colouring. Add the wet ingredients to a separate bowl and mix well with the tablespoon



4. Pour the coloured water into the flour mix and bring together by mixing the ingredients with the tablespoon



5. Dust your kitchen counter with a little flour (to prevent the dough from sticking) and turn out the dough. Knead the playdough together for a few minutes to form a smooth, pliable playdough. **Tip:** If you want a more intense colour you can work in a few extra drops of food colouring



6. Store in a plastic sandwich bag (squeeze out the air) in the fridge to keep it fresh. Enjoy being creative with your playdough!

