

# Playdough Activities

## Supplies for All the Activities Listed

Play dough

- a. Store bought
- b. Homemade (see recipe at end of activities)

Pipe Cleaners

Paper

Crayons or Markers

Beads

Straws

Children's Scissors

Pony Beads

Found Objects

Additional Optional Supplies

- a. Playdough Tools and Extruders:

[https://smile.amazon.com/Ca-rykon-Smart-Dough-ModelsExtruders/dp/B0110E3A1A/ref=sr\\_1\\_8?crid=28OFIU80G5TVV&dchild=1&keyword=s=extruder+for+playdough&qid=1586277207&srefix=extruders+for+%2Caps%2C144&sr=8-8](https://smile.amazon.com/Ca-rykon-Smart-Dough-ModelsExtruders/dp/B0110E3A1A/ref=sr_1_8?crid=28OFIU80G5TVV&dchild=1&keyword=s=extruder+for+playdough&qid=1586277207&srefix=extruders+for+%2Caps%2C144&sr=8-8)

- b. Rolling pin

## Activity: Playdough Names, Numbers, Shapes, etc.

Supplies:

- Paper
- Crayon or marker
- Playdough

Activity:

1. Write your child's name on a piece of paper
2. Roll the playdough into snakes
3. Trace the written name with the playdough

Tips:

1. Rolling the playdough is a major part of this fine motor activity, their name is secondary.
2. It is ok to use several pieces of snakes to make a letter!
3. Younger children may need help forming the letters. Instead you can draw a straight line, or a curvy, line, or a diagonal line, etc.
4. Instead of letters, create a cat or a house or a tree, or whatever your child wants to create.

### Activity: Playdough and Straw Letters

#### Supplies:

- Playdough
- Children's scissors
- Straws
- Plastic knife or other utensil to draw in the playdough
- Rolling pin (optional)

#### Activity:

1. Cut the straws into approximately 2" pieces
2. Have your child either roll out a piece of playdough or create a flat surface of playdough with their hands.
3. With the plastic knife write a letter in the playdough.
4. Trace the letter by poking the straws into the playdough.



#### Tips:

1. Instead of letters, practice shapes, numbers, objects, etc.
2. If you child is able to cut, have them practice cutting the straws. This is another fine motor activity.

### Teaching Children to use Scissors:

From Parents Magazine:

<https://www.parents.com/toddlerspreschoolers/development/physical/teaching-preschoolers-to-use-scissors/>

Or YouTube:

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=instructions+for+children+using+scissors#id=6&vid=aeacabe7070a04b1f892956a033c7031&action=click>

### **Activity: Playdough and Straw Structures**

#### Supplies

- Playdough
- Scissors
- Straws

#### Activity:

1. Roll out small balls of playdough.
2. Stick straws into the playdough.
3. Attach straws and playdough together to make structures and shapes.

#### Tips:

1. Instead of straws you can use tooth picks or craft sticks.
2. It can be tricky to balance a 3D structure. Younger children may want to stick to 2D shapes.
3. Play a game of copycat! Let your child build a structure and see if you or a sibling can copy it. Then switch.

### **Activity: Playdough Patterns**

#### Supplies:

- Playdough

#### Activity:

1. Roll two colors of playdough into small balls.
2. Start a pattern for your child to follow by setting out 3-4 of the play dough balls.
3. Have your child continue the pattern with the playdough balls.

#### Tips:

1. You can also make patterns by size, big and small balls. Or make patterns with different shapes of playdough, like squares, dough snakes, and balls.
2. The simplest of patterns is ABABAB. You can make it more difficult by doing AABBAABB or ABCABC and so on.
3. Younger children may just want to line up the balls regardless of the pattern. Use this as an opportunity to count, one to one correspondence, label colors, shapes, size, big and small, fat and thin, etc.

### **Activity: Playdough Art**

#### Supplies:

- Playdough
- Beads
- Markers
- Pipe cleaners

#### Activity:

1. Set out the playdough, markers, and craft items.
2. Create art by coloring on the playdough and using the craft items to create!
3. See where their imagination goes!

#### Tips:

1. Try not to give your child too many instructions with this one. Leave it really open ended for the children.
2. Use whatever craft supplies you already have on hand. Your child may have fun getting to help pick out what to use!

### **Activity: Pipe Cleaner Threading**

#### Supplies:

- Playdough
- Pony Beads
- Pipe Cleaners

#### Activity:

1. Stand pipe cleaners in balls of play dough.
2. Thread beads onto the pipe cleaners.
3. How many beads can you string on each pipe cleaners?

#### Tips:

1. Add patterning to the pipe cleaners using the colors of the beads or a patterns of the playdough balls.
2. Count as you put the beads on, stop when you get to 5 or 10. Repeat for 5 to 10 pipe cleaners and then skip count by 5s and 10s.
3. This is a great fine motor control activity for young children. Don't push it beyond that.

### **Activity: Playdough Stamping**

#### Supplies:

- Playdough
- Hard Objects for your craft bins
- Rolling pin- optional

#### Activity:

1. Flatten the play dough into a circle, either by hand or rolling pin.
2. Press small items or toys into the playdough.
3. Lift up the playdough to see the designs they've made.

#### Tips:

1. Playing with playdough is always a great time to talk about colors and textures.
2. Younger children may need help pressing the items into the playdough.
3. Challenge older children to see if they can make a picture out of the designs.

### **Activity: Playdough Cutting\***

#### Supplies:

- Playdough
- Children's scissors

#### Activity:

1. Roll the playdough into worms or snakes.
2. Cut the playdough into smaller pieces with children's scissors.
3. Roll the pieces back into more snakes and worms and do it again.

#### Tips:

1. You can also do this with other dough, like slime.
2. Don't worry if your child is holding the scissors correctly if they are just starting to use scissors. They will eventually catch on. Check in to see if their thumb is facing up.
3. Start your child cutting earlier than you think. Let them try it out when they are interested.

\*Children like to cut magazines, wrapping paper, junk mail, and more. This does not have to be a playdough activity.

# Basic Playdough Recipe

## Ingredients:

1 cup of flour  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of salt  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of water

## Steps:

1. Mix flour and salt in a bowl.
2. Gradually add  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of water.
  - a. If dough is too wet add more flour.
  - b. If dough is too crumbly add more water.
3. Knead the dough.
4. To color the dough you can use food coloring or washable paint.
  - a. Make a well in the middle of the kneaded dough and knead the food coloring into the dough.
  - b. Or you can mix the food coloring into the dough back in the bowl.
5. Store the dough in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for up to a month.

This playdough recipe is from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAIAm6BF0fs>.  
You can find other recipes on YouTube or Google.

