

Sensory Table Playdough

Materials

sensory table
4 cups flour
1 cup salt
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups warm water
small containers with lids
large empty bowl

What to do

1. Make playdough with the children using the sensory table.
2. Put 4 cups of flour in a large container, 1 cup of salt in a container, and 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups warm water in a container. Place the containers and a large empty bowl in the sensory table.
3. Encourage the children to look at the ingredients. Don't give them any instructions on how to make the playdough. Simply say, "Here's what you need to make playdough."
4. Give the children a few minutes. Watch and see what they do. They may dig in and start mixing the ingredients together.
5. If, after a few moments, the children don't start mixing the ingredients, offer some encouragement. Offer hints as needed. However, try not to lead the children too much. Give them ample time to figure things out on their own. Sooner or later, they will realize what needs to be done and start mixing away.
6. After the children have mixed the playdough and played with it for a while, offer containers for storage.
7. If desired, double or triple the recipe and let the children make the playdough as described. Then give each child a small zipper-closure bag to bring home some playdough.

More to do

Add a flavorful twist by letting the children add a package of unsweetened drink mix to the playdough.

Related books

Don't Touch by Suzy Kline
Josefina by Jeanette Winter

 Virginia Jean Herrod, Columbia, SC

The Five Senses in Boxes

Materials

five cardboard or plastic shoeboxes
books on the five senses
objects representing each of the senses

What to do

1. Label each box with one of the senses. Fill each box with materials that represent the sense. For example:
 - **Sound**—bell, headphones or earplugs to muffle sound, music box, and rattles
 - **Touch**—piece of fur, sandpaper, smooth rock, and rubber band
 - **Smell**—sachets, scratch-and-sniff stickers, and plastic film cans with cotton balls soaked in different scent oils
 - **Sight**—binoculars, magnifying glasses, and color paddles
 - **Taste**—photos of favorite foods, or actual foods for tasting

Safety Note: If you choose to add real foods to the taste box, check for any food allergies and monitor use closely.

2. Put a book about each sense in each box. Use class-made books, if available.
3. Introduce each box separately at circle time, and then put it in the science or sensory center for the children to explore independently. Keep these boxes on the science shelf all year.
4. Change the contents of the boxes occasionally. Change them according to classroom theme, if desired.

 Tracie O'Hara, Charlotte, NC

The Eyes Have It

Materials

magazines
scissors
small baskets
glue
paper

What to do

1. Talk about the different parts of our bodies. Focus on similarities and differences, senses, or identifying body parts.
2. Have the children work in groups, each focusing on a particular body part. Ask each group to cut out pictures from magazines of the body part they are working on and keep them in their basket.