

## Let's explore.....

# Playdough



### Resources:

- ✓ Commercial or home-made dough
- ✓ Selection of tools to use to explore the playdough
- ✓ Mat/boards
- ✓ Egg timer

### Other resources you may want to use when exploring the playdough:

- Tools such as a safe knife, fork, spoon, garlic press, potato masher, rolling pin plastic cutters.
- Junk materials – pieces of cardboard of different thickness and size, bubble wrap, any carton or packaging with pattern, inside plastic from chocolate boxes, cake boxes
- Objects – stickle brick, duplo/lego brick, bobbin, bottle tops of different sizes, end of pen/pencil, buttons, sequins.
- Natural materials – stones, grasses, gravel, bark, leaves, twigs, logs.

### What you do

- Explore the dough using **hands**, encourage your child to **talk** about what they are doing and what is happening to the dough:



patting with flat hand, side of hand, with a fist,  
poking  
squeezing in hand, through fingers,  
squashing,  
pinching  
rolling – long sausage shapes, different sized balls  
use hands to mould a simple model/shape

- ❑ Explore using **tools** and **objects**, talk about what happens, what you can do, what patterns you can make:



press tools and objects into dough ball, sausage dough, pancake dough – what can you do /make  
 make patterns in dough – be creative  
 squeeze dough through different tools – garlic press, spoon with holes, etc.  
 make a simple model and use tools to make patterns and textures on the model, e.g. dinosaur, hedgehog.

- ❑ Explore using **junk materials**, and **natural materials** talk about what you can make, how you can use the playdough and junk together:



roll a ball, or a sausage with dough, use junk to make patterns, e.g. the edge of a piece of cardboard, a button, a twig,  
 make a simple model and use the resources to create a character, animal, person, e.g. alien, reindeer, frog, etc.  
 make 'chocolates', 'cakes', 'pies' to put in the trays,  
 what else can you make?

#### Other Ideas:

- roll out a piece of dough until flat, choose a tool to draw a picture on the dough
- create a picture on the board using pieces of modelled dough....house, boat, a rainbow, sun,
- set off the egg timer and make a simple model out of dough...animal, fruit, toy..... take turns and guess what the model is..... have a simple score board
- make your own playdough with your child – [www.theimaginationtree.com/best-ever-no-cook-play-dough-recipe/](http://www.theimaginationtree.com/best-ever-no-cook-play-dough-recipe/)

#### Other Resources:

- pure soap flakes mixed with water to make mouldable substance – make simple models and leave them to set
- make salt dough, bake models and paint and varnish

