



SHELL PRINTS

Materials you need:

- Playdough, Clay or Salt Dough
- Easy to grasp shells -the ones with ridges and bumps work best!
- Additional objects and natural materials that will make an imprint in dough – leaves, flowers, sticks, cotton reels, stamps, plastic animals, material etc.

Setup for play:

- Give each child a little playdough and show them how to press or roll out until they have a flat surface.
- Now they choose a shell and roll or press it into the dough. Lift and show them the imprint or pattern that they have made.
- Let them choose different objects along with the shells to experiment with making different prints and patterns.

What are they learning with this activity?

As they make prints in the dough children are learning to:

- Use descriptive language to describe textures, materials and actions.
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Manipulate objects to explore cause and effect
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Express themselves creatively while investigating and experimenting
- Create with different mediums and textures.

Extending the play:

- Add sand to a tray then dampen with a little water. Encourage the toddlers to see what 'foot' prints they can make in the sand tray using dinosaurs & other animals. You can also press into paint then walk over paper to make prints.