



BEACH PLAYDOUGH

Materials you need:

- 2 Cups of sand from the sandpit
- 2 Cups Plain Flour (or for a slightly different texture use cornflour)
- 2 Tbsp Vegetable Oil
- Mixing Bowls
- Measuring cups, spoons, jugs.
- Extra sand for sprinkling (try putting it in old spice jars for something different!)
- Shells , twigs, seaweed, pebbles – anything you might have collected from the beach.

Setup for play:

- Mix the flour and sand together in a large bowl. Make sure to ask the children to help you measure, pour and mix.
- Measure out the water into a jug and pour into the flour and sand mix. Stir well until combined (give all the little hands a turn!)
- Measure the oil and add to the bowl then use your hands to mix together and knead until soft. If it feels a little too sticky just add some more flour, too crumbly just add more water.
- Add to the table with your beach props and tools of the children's choice then show them how to shake and sprinkle more sand on top and squish then create with the dough.
- How does it feel? What happens when you add more sand? Can you tell me about your creation?

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children help to make the dough then create with it they are learning to:

- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and increase their spatial awareness
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Use descriptive language to name textures and smells
- Persevere and experience the satisfaction of a job done well and sense of achievement
- Measure, understand volume and count

Extending the play:

- Make some photo cards of the sand dough recipe and steps and set up on a low table for the children to try making themselves next time.
- Ask what other materials the children would like to add to their sand dough.
- Encourage them to bring in their own treasures from beach or nature trips on the weekend to use in their play.

