



PLAYDOUGH COOKING STATION

Materials you need:

- Clearly labelled playdough making materials e.g. flour, oil, water
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Bowls
- Sequence cards of how to make the dough (photos of each step of the recipe glued onto card squares then laminated)
- Mixing spoons
- Simple uncooked playdough recipe

Setup for play:

- Set up all materials on an easily accessible table.
- The first time you do this activity make the playdough with the children first naming all the ingredients, helping them to measure and follow the sequence recipe cards.
- The second time set up the table for the children to access independently with only limited supervision and direction.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children make their own playdough they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and increase their spatial awareness
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Gain confidence
- Manipulate equipment and real life tools with increasing competence
- Measure, experiment with volume and capacity.
- Listen to and follow directions
- Recognise and follow sequences and visual cues.
- Work together in a group with others
- Recognise their individual achievements and successes – show pride in their work
- Recognise the contributions they make to shared projects and experiences
- Show increasing independence and competence
- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve

Extending the play:

- Set up similar stations using craft materials, paint or other simple recipes.
- Add real life kitchen tools and materials to the dramatic play area.
- Set up a plant and pot seedling station outside. Use the bottom half of empty milk containers for the pots or recycle old plant pots.