



PLAYDOUGH NOODLE THREAD

Materials you need:

- 1 x quantity of [microwave playdough](#)
- 1 x small packet dry spaghetti
- 1 x small packet large pasta tubes and penne

NOTE: If you choose not to use food in play you can do this activity in a similar way using wooden craft sticks (thin) and some cardboard rolls cut in to 2 cm lengths for the threading action (or whatever you have to hand that will thread onto the craft sticks you have)

Setup for play:

- Divide the playdough up into small piles for each child.
- Show the children how to squash their dough to form a hill type lump.
- Place 1 or 2 spaghetti sticks into the dough until standing firmly.
- Add the pasta to baskets or bowls and set out for the children to choose from.
- Let them find ways to thread their pasta tubes onto the spaghetti (or craft sticks) . Larger pasta tubes are easier and will give toddlers the confidence to try with smaller pieces once they have mastered the larger pieces! You don't want to cause frustration by making the activity too hard for the younger children in the and that is why you offer 2 sizes of dry pasta.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children mould their playdough and thread they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Express themselves creatively while investigating and experimenting
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Work independently on a project
- Use descriptive language to describe textures, materials and actions.
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing
- Manipulate equipment and real life tools with increasing competence
- Persist and try again even when they find a task difficult.

Extending the play:

- Use a length of ribbon and some wooden curtain rings for a different angle to thread.
- Collect some empty spice and herb jars (the ones with the plastic hole shaker inserts). Set them up as posting jars using items that fit through the lid holes like toothpicks, craft sticks, bobby pins, paper clips.

