



JUNGLE PLAYDOUGH

Materials you need:

Mix and match from the list below – just use whatever you already have or can easily collect outside!

- Grass
- Small cut tree branches/sticks
- Leafy bamboo shoots
- Stones
- Smooth pebbles
- Leaves
- Glass or plastic gems
- Large beans
- Pine cones
- Handfuls of grass
- Scissors
- 1 batch of playdough.
- Trays from the recycle bin
- Jungle animals & jungle themed books with pictures of habitats.



INVITING THE IMAGINATION IN - ACTIVITY GUIDE 133

Setup for play:

- Make up a quick batch of playdough using your favourite recipe or try [my easy microwave recipe](#).
- Use food colouring or edicol powder dye to give your playdough a jungle look. Take 3/4 of the dough and tint it green then tint the other 1/4 a dark green blue. Knead some of the green play dough into the smaller blue ball to make it turn a marble like green/blue camouflage type colour.
- If you have the time you could also provide a batch of natural playdough along with the scissors and grass. Show the children how to cut the grass into smaller pieces using their scissors then roll and knead a dough ball through the grass scattered over the table to form a grass ball.
- Set out all natural materials and doughs on a table along with some jungle animals and books. Ask children if they can create a jungle habitat using the props and playdough.
- The playdough can hold sticks up to make shelters, be moulded to form a cave, become trees, grassy mounds and more.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children build their jungle habitat they are learning to:

- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Manipulate equipment and real life tools with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Use their senses to explore and choose natural materials
- Use their play to imagine and explore ideas
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Problem solve and make decisions
- Use their imagination to explore real life events and community

Extending the play:

- What other themes and habitats could you use playdough as an invitation to create?
- Help the children put together a simple jungle story performance/play. Record so they can then watch a video of themselves.