



# SEED BOMBS

### Materials you need:

*Modify according to the number of children you have when making the balls (and whether you are sending them home to be planted or planting in the care area!)*

- 2 parts potting soil
- 5 parts clay
- 1-2 parts water
- 1-2 parts seeds of your choice – try making some 'theme balls' using a wildflower mix or a bird seed mix , or just keep it simple with some cheerful zinnias or cosmos flowers. I find that the smaller seeds stay in the balls better than the large seeds.
- Large tub or a (few bowls if you have lots of hands wanting a turn) to mix all the ingredients together by hand.
- A box to dry and store seed balls.
- Somewhere to throw and grow your seed balls!

### Setup for play:

- Add all soil, clay and 1 part of the water to a large tub or bucket for mixing.
- Allow the children to take turns mixing – strong sticks are good for this! Try to get rid of all lumps. Slowly add more water until the mixture is the consistency of playdough.
- Ask children to sprinkle their seeds in (you might like to provide a few tubs of soil mix if you want to have a few different themed balls) then work together to knead the dough until the seeds are well mixed in. Add more water if necessary.
- Show everyone how to take small bits of the clay mixture and roll into small balls (about cookie size works well).
- The balls should hold together easily. If they're crumbly, add more water.

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- Dry your seed balls for 24-48 hours in a shady place before sowing or storing. They store best in a cardboard box. Do not use plastic bags.
- The last step is sowing them. You could place them carefully in the area you want to plant out but it is a whole lot more fun to each gently toss your seed ball onto the garden bed! You might need to do a little rearranging later on but they are pretty hardy.
- You don't need to bury them though or water them in. You've done your job, now sit back and leave the rest to Mother Nature. Record what happens over the next few weeks with drawings and photos.

### **What are they learning with this activity?**

As the children make and sow their seed balls they are learning to:

- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Broaden their understanding of the world
- Use their senses to explore the natural environment
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and experimentation
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Use hand/eye coordination skills, balance and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Identify the steps and gain an understanding of the life cycle of flowers.

### **Extending the play:**

- Instead of making balls challenge those fine motor skills by using silicone moulds to press the mixture into and create different shapes.
- Research what other combinations of seeds you could make together that would suit your local environment.

