

DIY Dandelion Playdough



Ingredients

- 1 BIG handful of dandelions
- 1 C boiling water
- 2 C flour
- 1/3 C salt
- 2 T of baby or vegetable oil
- 1-2 T of cream of tartar or white vinegar

Directions

1. In a blender, mix hot water and dandelions
2. Move mixture to a bowl and add oil, salt, and cream of tartar. Stir.
3. Add flour to the mixture and mix well.
4. Continue to mix with your hands, adding more flour as needed.
5. Play!



How does playdough prepare kids for kindergarten?

Sensory play ● Sensory play that lets children touch, smell and feel helps build connections in the brain that facilitate learning.

Fine motor skills ● Playdough can be squeezed, rolled, pinched, molded and flattened all using hand and finger muscles later used for writing. Grasp, push, pull, and roll with a rolling pin to strengthen both hand and forearm muscles. Playdough is unbeatable for practicing scissor skills. Roll out snakes and give them a haircut! Do snakes have hair?

Check out the video for tips and tricks!

Spatial or visual thinking ● Being able to imagine the positions of objects and how they interact is an important skill for learning math. Use cookie cutters, toys and plastic cutlery with playdough. Create shapes, make impressions of objects, stack, arrange and pretend!

Pretend play ● Make meatballs, worms, or roll dandelion cookies. Have your kids “teach” you to use a knife and fork. Children gain social and emotional skills through dramatic play. When they pretend, they are experimenting in social roles, practicing language, and solving problems.

Language ● Comparing and contrasting is a great way to develop vocabulary. Not all yellow flowers are dandelions. Talk with your kids during a nature walk about the different types of petals and leaves. Don't pick your neighbors prized daisies by mistake! Compare how playdough feels to sand, or shaving cream! Talk about hard and squishy, cold and hot, rough and smooth.

Creativity ● Kids love to create from their imaginations, and creative play builds problem-solving skills.

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