

How to make play dough

Play dough is simple to make and this cooked version will last for ages if kept in a lidded container or sealed bag on the fridge.

To make enough for 2 or 3 children you'll need:

2 cups of plain flour

1 cup of salt

4 teaspoons of cream of tartar

2 tablespoons of oil (vegetable oil is fine but baby oil smells better)

2 cups of water

Food colouring

In a large saucepan combine the dry ingredients. Combine the water, oil and food colouring in a jug. Pour the water mix in with the dry ingredients and stir over a medium heat until it comes together in a lump. Tip out and leave to cool. When cool enough to touch, knead to smooth dough. Hand over to the children and enjoy.

If you're in a rush use warm water. Don't worry about lumps when the mix is first combined, it will come together and they'll work out as the children play.

You can make larger quantities; just double it up and use a bigger cup or mug. If you use a very large mug be a bit more generous with the spoonfuls of cream of tartar and oil.

Why not try.....

....using different flours to give a courser or rougher texture

....adding glitter. This is great fun if you let the children sprinkle it on and knead it in once the dough is cooled!

....experimenting with different colours. Make two batches and knead together for a marbled effect. This won't last beyond the first play but is fun and illustrates colour mixing.

....making smelly play dough. Add a few drops of a 'safe' essential oil, e.g. lavender. The scent doesn't last beyond the first few outings but it is lovely initially.