

## Nursery – Home learning challenge 1



This week I would love to see you having fun with playdough.  
Please upload your photos to tapestry.

### Let's Make It!

Play dough is a really quick, easy and satisfying thing to make. The actual making experience with the ingredients and how they react can support children's learning. It can be used in all kinds of learning activities. It needs to be stored in an airtight container or bag if you are going to reuse it.

#### Play Dough Ingredients :

cups of plain flour

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup salt

2 cups of warm water

Food colouring (optional)

#### Play Dough Equipment:

Cup , Bowl and Spoon2

**Patterns :** You may have some equipment that has patterns on. Look on the bottom of a cup or perhaps the handle of a spoon that has an interesting pattern. Try using a spatula to smooth the dough. Using different mashers is also fun. Your child can explore these by pressing the tools against the dough. Look for any similarities and differences. They may want to create their own patterns by making marks in the dough. They could use the end of a spoon or their finger to create dimples and holes. Have they got toys that could make marks in the dough such as a mini car?

**Super Snakes :** Children can make all kinds of wonderful creations with play dough. They may want to make their own slithery snake. This helps children to use their hands, moving them back and forth in opposite directions. They may create snakes of different lengths and sizes. Which one is the longest? Will it reach the end of the table? Perhaps they have made a tiny, little snake.

**Treasure Dough:** Use the play dough to hide treasure for your child to discover. You could hide coins, buttons, beads (risk assess) inside the play dough. Digging for treasure is a wonderful workout for your child's hands and fingers. You can talk about the different properties of the treasure you have found. Is it cold, bumpy, shiny or dull? Is it gold, bronze, metal or wooden? Imagine finding pretend rubies, pearls and sapphires.

**Fine Motor Skills :** Why not encourage your child to isolate their fingers as they experiment? You can say, "Let's get Peter Pointer to press the dough!" You can also get your child to pinch the play dough to work on their pincer grip. Encourage your child to squeeze the play dough in their hands to strengthen their hand grip. Getting the child to use their fingers and hands supports their ability to hold pens and pencils for their writing development.