

Playdough faces

Make your own play dough and use natural resources to create your very own playdough faces.

Learning aims

- Talk about feelings and emotions
- Understanding facial features
- Expressive arts and design
- Learning about the nature and world around them.



Resources

- Salt-free play dough
 - Two cups of plain flour
 - Half a cup of vegetable oil
 - Water
- Baskets for gathering materials
- Camera for taking photos.

Activity Outline

- Make the playdough with the children by mixing the oil and flour thoroughly. Add enough water to make a soft dough (this needs to be salt-free so it does not affect the nature around it)
- Take the dough outside
- Gather materials from around you
- Even if you are in the middle of a city or town you will still be able to find leaves, twigs, pebbles or feathers
- Give the children a basket so they can collect what they find
- Talk to the children about their faces; where their eyes, ears, nose and mouth are. What expressions do they have, are they happy, sad, confused, angry?
- Mould the playdough into a face shape (or circle) and use the materials you have found to make the features on the face
- You can stick the playdough to the side of a tree, onto a fence or on the floor if you need to
- Support the children to take a photo of their creation and then print this out for a display or their learning journal
- Remember to take the playdough back in with you, although it does not contain salt it can still be harmful to wildlife and nature.

Extending the activity

- This playdough recipe is easy to make as it doesn't require cooking or hot water; the raw materials could be left out for children to make their own playdough. This supports their independence, maths skills and motor skills development
- As an adult, you can be there to support but as the children become more confident and able, leave them to it
- Why not add pipettes and food colouring too? This will help children to add the right amount of food colouring without getting it on their hands.