

What Do We Do In A World Without Playdough!

Playdough has long been a staple resource in Early Years Settings because it supports child development across all ages and stages and in each area of learning and development. It's a classic open ended resource that is used to support children to achieve a myriad of next steps. The removal of play dough from our settings has the potential to limit children's opportunities to develop the following skills.

Fine motor skills; specifically the muscle and tendon development required for good pencil control.

Language skills; specifically the use of sensory, mathematical and scientific vocabulary.

Mathematical skills; specifically the development of the concepts of quantity, size and shape.

It's also important not to forget the therapeutic value that it brings.

Whilst we plan for 'COVID Safe' provision how can we ensure that these opportunities for learning are not lost? Read on for some low cost, simple yet effective ideas.

Now is the perfect time to introduce, explore or extend your mud kitchens!



Give children the opportunity to use and explore a range of tools in your mud kitchens. Use this open ended resource to develop fine motor skills, introduce new vocabulary and develop children's understanding of mathematical and scientific concepts.

Zip Lock Sensory Bags:

You can be as creative as you wish with zip lock bags. These are good for individual use and can be filled with a mixture of paint and shaving foam for colour mixing, coloured hair gel and small world toys or a mixture of your own resources! These are great for little fingers to manipulate and easy to wipe clean. Use these to develop fine motor skills, language and a variety of mathematical and scientific concepts.



Shadow Puppet Play



Develop children's fine motor skills and language skills by making shadow puppets. Older children will also be able to discuss and explore their understanding of the scientific concepts of light and dark.

Other Resources to support fine motor skills:

In the absence of regular access to sand, water and playdough it's important that we plan and provide additional opportunities to use scissors, threading, posting and slotting activities.