

ART ACTIVITIES

TO STAY CREATIVE AT HOME

Clay Play

For this activity you'll need:

- Clay (or playdough)
- Objects (tea cup, hair brush, toys etc.)
- Loose parts (sticks, seed pods, rocks, shells etc.)
- Tools (cutlery, paddle pop sticks, rolling pin etc.)
- Baking paper or plastic placemat
- Damp towel



Have fun and share your creations with us by tagging
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Redland Art Gallery

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1. PREP YOUR STATION

Secure the baking paper on the table with some tape or use a plastic placemat and have a damp towel handy.

2. EXPLORE THE CLAY

For some of you this will be your child's first time touching clay so you may just want to start with a sensory invitation and enjoy manipulating the clay itself. Your child may prefer trying to get the clay off their little fingers since they haven't yet enjoyed the texture and being messy and that's all right to.

Clay comes from our earth, it feels cold, messy and different from playdough. Ask your child how it feels/smells/sounds?

Try manipulating the clay such as poking, squishing, squeezing, pinching, pounding, rolling, twisting, flattening, tearing, stretching, and pulling pieces off the clay. It will help develop your child's dexterity and vocabulary.

Remember that your child is exploring and the changes may seem very little for an adult however for a toddler or preschooler these changes are fascinating and they will just want to keep experimenting.

3. CLAY IS WONDERFUL FOR STORY TELLING

Now, why not collect some objects in your home i.e. a tea cup, a hair brush, a bowl, anything really. Talk about them and encourage your child to make their own living object. Remember, the child might start making a cup and end up with a plane and that's completely up to them, listen to their storytelling as they create and let them change the clay as they wish.



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4. LOOSE PARTS

You can try adding some loose parts (sticks, seed pods, rocks, shells etc.) and tools. Be creative here, perhaps head out in nature for a scavenger hunt to find some treasures and also look around the home for tools such as cutlery, paddle pop sticks, rolling pin, wooden spoon. Use the tools to make markings and impressions and the loose parts to decorate or build.



EXTRA NOTES

- Adding a bowl with a little water is also another great option to explore the clay. What happens when you add water? You may want to put the clay on a plastic tray to contain it best.
- Clay can be stored back in the air tight bag or container to be reused.
- You can add a wet paper towel over your child's creation for her/him to return to it the day after.
- If you would like to display your child's work, you can let the clay air dry a few days depending on thickness and texture. Please note if loose parts weren't stuck deep enough they may fall off. As the clay dries its size reduces, then simply glue the loose pieces back on once dry.
- Once dry the option to paint is also a lovely extension to the activity.

Have fun!