

Making Molding Dough

Primary Objectives

- 7a. Uses fingers and hands
- 8b. Follows directions

Why It's Important

The experience of making molding dough while answering open-ended questions about the process gives your child a chance to associate words with the experience. It is also an opportunity for her to use objects as she performs tasks with multiple steps.

Materials

Large spoon or spatula; saucepan; food coloring (2 or more colors); large bowl; small cup of water; 1/2 cup of salt; 1 cup flour; 1 tablespoon cream of tartar; 1 tablespoon oil

What You Do

1. Designate a space at a table for this activity. Place ingredients on or near the table. Measure all ingredients and place them in individual bowls. Invite your child to the table to help you make molding dough.
2. Encourage your child to feel the salt and shake it into the bowl. Talk about the way it feels. *How does the salt feel in your hand?*
3. Ask her to mix in the other ingredients in the following order: flour, cream of tartar, oil, and water.
4. As she adds the ingredients and stirs, ask open-ended questions about the process. *What do you think we should add next? What will happen when we add the water? I wonder how we can make our molding dough a different color.*
5. Transfer the ingredients to the saucepan and assist your child in adding the food coloring. Heat gently, stirring constantly. When the mixture pulls away from the sides and is the consistency of dough, take it off the heat and allow it to cool.
6. When the dough is cool enough to handle safely, place a small amount in front of your child. Talk about the dough's temperature, texture, and color.
7. Allow her adequate time to play with the warm dough. You can extend her play by introducing tools such as craft sticks, rolling pins, or cookie cutters.