

Art and craft

Recipes

Children learn ways to use their imagination and express themselves creatively as they explore art and craft experiences. When children are involved in preparing and making art and craft recipes, they are able to explore materials using their senses such as smell, touch and sight.

Playdough

Young children often find working with playdough emotionally and physically satisfying. They can roll, pound, punch, pull and twist the dough in a variety of ways as well as mould it into more definite shapes.

Uncooked playdough

What you need

- 2 cups plain flour
- 1 cup cooking salt
- 1 teaspoon cooking oil
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- Powder paint or food colouring

What to do

1. Place all ingredients except powder paint or food colouring in a bowl.
2. Add enough water to mix to a firm dough.
3. Add a few drops of the food colouring or a tiny amount (less than $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon) of powder paint.
4. More oil can be added if the mixture is too dry.

Uncooked dough can be stored in a plastic bag or in an airtight container in the refrigerator for about a week.

Cooked playdough

What you need

- 1 cup flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup salt
- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon cooking oil
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- Powder paint for colouring

What to do

1. Mix flour and water to a paste.
2. Add salt and cream of tartar.
3. Stir over medium heat until thick.
4. When cool, add oil and colouring.
5. Knead until smooth.

Cooked dough will keep in the refrigerator for up to two months.



Photography: Brisbane School of Distance Education

Paste

Pasting is an activity most young children enjoy. They gain satisfaction from tearing or cutting paper and pasting it on a large piece of paper or scrapbook.

Cornflour paste

What to do

1. Mix 2 tablespoons of cornflour with 1 cup of cold water.
2. Stir over heat until mixture thickens.
3. Store in refrigerator.

Flour paste

What to do

1. Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of flour with $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of cold water.
2. Cook for several minutes over low heat, stirring constantly until mixture thickens.
3. Add a little disinfectant to keep paste fresh.
4. Store in refrigerator.

Use the above recipes for pasting paper or mix 50/50 with a non-toxic PVA adhesive for a firmer hold. Use undiluted adhesive or PVA to glue boxes, fabric and plastic.

As children use art and craft materials, they have opportunities to explore and develop an awareness of the elements of art such as colour, texture, line and shape, and represent their ideas.

Paint

Paint can be used in many ways. Children enjoy the freedom to experiment with different kinds of paint, a variety of colours, different brushes, and paper of various sizes and shapes. You can create inexpensive paint using these recipes.

Fingerpainting provides wonderful sensory experiences as the paint is smoothed, squished and squeezed between the fingers. Both hands are used to enjoy the 'feel' of the paint, and to create designs and patterns.

Soap flakes fingerprint

What you need

- 1–2 cups warm water
- 1 cup soap flakes
- Food colouring or powder paint

What to do

1. Add water to soap flakes and beat until stiff.
2. Colour with powder paint or food colouring.

A print can be taken of your child's fingerpainting. Lay a sheet of paper over their painting. Rub the back of the paper to transfer the paint to the paper. Peel the paper from the surface carefully.

Cornflour-based paint

What you need

- 2 tablespoons cornflour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{3}$ third cup cold water
- 2 cups boiling water
- Food colouring or powder paint
- Disinfectant

What to do

1. Mix cornflour to a smooth paste with cold water.
2. While stirring, gradually add boiling water until mixture thickens.
3. Leave to cool. Mixture will thicken more but should still pour easily.
4. Add a few drops of disinfectant.

Mixture will keep in the refrigerator for about a week.

Cornflour fingerprint

What you need:

- 1 cup cornflour mixed to a paste with cold water
- 2 cups boiling water
- Powder paint or food colouring

What to do

1. Add cornflour paste to boiling water, stirring all the time over medium heat until it becomes clear and thick.
2. Add a few drops of food colouring or powder paint to colour.
3. Leave to cool.

Glycerine added to this mixture will give a shiny effect. When ready to use, pour into paint pots and add food colouring or powder paint.

For further information, visit www.qld.gov.au/kindy

Disclaimer: the information in this resource sheet is offered as a guide only, and should not be treated as an exhaustive statement on the subject.