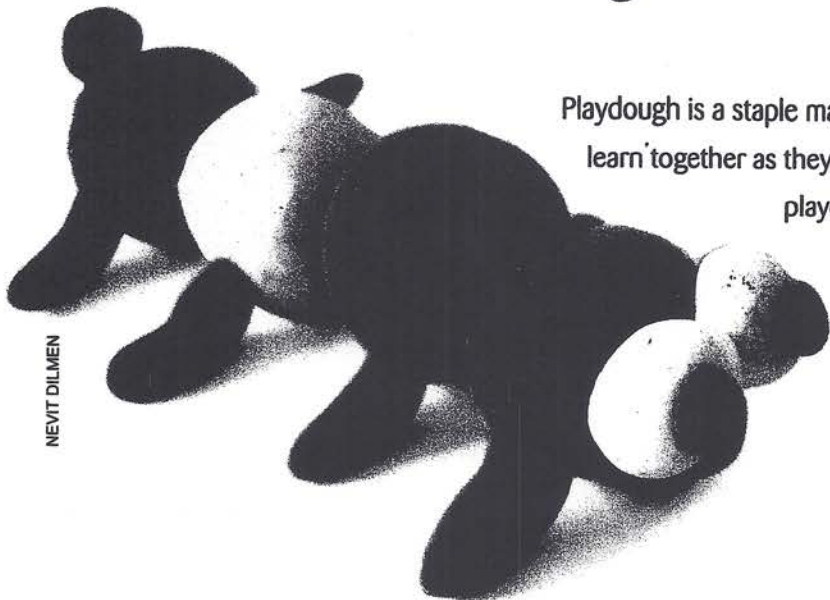


Playdough!



Playdough is a staple material in our classroom. Your children play, talk, and learn together as they pound, roll, and make things. They will also enjoy using playdough at home. What do children need? A few props, a little space, and time to play and learn with YOU!

Props

Open your kitchen drawers and cupboards to find rolling pins, plastic knives, cookie cutters, and birthday candles.

Collect recycled items such as aluminum pie plates, buttons, lids, and bottle caps of different sizes.

Add a touch of nature with feathers, twigs, leaves, acorns, and dried flowers.

Look in your child's toy collection for plastic and rubber people, animals, dinosaurs, blocks, and more.

Space

Cover a table with an easily cleaned mat or table cloth. An old shower curtain would work too. Some families use large cookie sheets as the play surface.

Time

Preschoolers need plenty of time to feel, touch, roll, mush, and create with playdough. They will enjoy being with you—talking, laughing, and learning.

While using playdough, preschoolers are learning . . .

■ **Social and emotional skills** by sharing and taking turns using the props, cooperating to make something together, and feeling proud of their accomplishments.

■ **Language and literacy skills** by rolling a long snake then forming letters, telling you about what they are doing and making, and discussing new words, such as *cut*, *chop*, and *slice*.

■ **Creativity and imagination** by baking cakes and pies to sell in a bakery or building cages for zoo animals.

■ **Science and math concepts** by responding to your questions, such as "What do you think will happen when you . . . ?" "What did it look like?"

"How does it feel?" "What can you do to make it . . . ?" "Which one is fatter?"

■ **Fine motor skills** by using hands, fingers, and tools to pound, push, poke, shape, flatten, roll, cut, and scrape the dough.

A request

Please tell us about your playdough experiences at home. We'd love to see photos too. If you share your recipes and prop suggestions, we will pass them on to other families.

A message from your child's teacher