



Homemade Play Dough Recipes



Craftulate

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Basic Recipe



This is the basic play dough recipe that I first made back in 2013, and it forms the base for many other recipes.

Supplies

- ½ cup AP flour
- ½ cup water
- 2 tbs salt
- 1 tsp cream of tartar
- 2-3 drops food dye

Directions

1. In a saucepan (preferably nonstick), mix the first four ingredients together so the mixture is as smooth as possible. It is OK if a few little lumps remain. Add the food dye as required.
2. Heat slowly, stirring regularly. As the mixture starts to thicken, stir constantly. Soon it will begin to pull away from the sides of the saucepan and form one lump. This takes about five minutes.
3. Remove from the heat and place the play dough ball on some parchment paper. Let cool and then knead for a minute or so.
4. If you want to make several colors then I would recommend doing the heating and stirring part one color at a time - as each dough needs your full attention!
5. Store the play dough wrapped in parchment paper in a resealable zipper bag.

*Note: This dough **could** be eaten, although it doesn't taste that nice so I wouldn't recommend it! But if your child likes to experiment by putting everything in their mouth - this dough would at least be safe for them.*

Pizza Play Dough



This pizza play dough really smells very realistic! Kids will love assembling their own pretend pizza.

Supplies—"pizza dough"

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup water
- ¼ cup salt
- 2 tsp cream of tartar
- 1-2 tbs grains (I used bulghar wheat), optional
- 1 drop yellow food dye

Supplies—"tomato sauce"

- ½ cup flour
- ¼ cup tomato sauce
- ¼ cup water
- 2 tbs salt
- 1 tsp cream of tartar
- 1-2 tsp dried oregano
- LOTS of red food dye—approx. 3 tbs

Supplies—"cheese"

- ½ cup flour
- ½ cup water
- 2 tbs salt
- 1 tsp cream of tartar

- 1-2 tsp dried oregano
- 3-4 drops yellow food dye OR 1-2 tsp cheddar cheese powder

Directions

1. Make all three play dough recipes separately, following the instructions from the [Basic Recipe](#).
2. Make the "cheese" by rolling small sausages of play dough then cutting them into small pieces.
3. When all three doughs have been made, either challenge your child to make a pizza, or make a pizza first and let your child play with it. Why not save a clean pizza box to serve up this play dough pizza!

Blue and Silver Sparkly Play Dough



This super sparkly play dough will be a hit with the kids!

Supplies

- Double amount of the [basic recipe](#)
- Silver and/or blue loose glitter
- Blue neon food dye
- Sequins

Directions

1. Make the play dough according to the basic recipe instructions, adding in the blue food dye and glitter at the cooking stage.
2. When the play dough has cooled, add the sequins to the dough and enjoy some sparkly play dough!

Chocolate Play Dough



This homemade chocolate play dough smells fantastic and it is so easy to make.

Supplies

- Dough ingredients as per the [basic recipe](#)
- 1 tbs cocoa powder

Directions

1. Add the cocoa powder to the other ingredients and make the play dough as instructed in the basic recipe.
2. Kids can play with the dough by itself, or use it to make [Play Dough Ice Cream!](#)

Note: This playdough is "taste-safe" but it doesn't taste as nice as it smells! Children should be discouraged from eating it.

Jello Play Dough



Use Jello powder for some amazingly vibrant play dough that also smells fantastic!

Supplies

- 1¼ cup AP flour, plus extra for kneading
- 2 tbs salt
- 1 tbs cream of tartar
- 1 3oz (85g) pack Jello*
- 1 tbs olive oil (or any other cooking oil)
- 1 cup warm water

* I have also tried using sugar free Jello: the pack size (0.3oz/8.5g) is actually one tenth of the sugar version but makes the same quantity of Jello. It worked just as well for making Jello play dough.

Directions

1. In a medium non-stick saucepan combine the first four ingredients and stir well. Add the oil and water and stir again - it may well be lumpy at this point.
2. Put the saucepan over a low-medium heat and stir until smooth. Keep stirring until the dough pulls away cleanly from the side of the pan and forms a clump.
3. Turn out the dough onto a silicone mat, plastic chopping board or similar. The dough will be HOT.
4. Once the dough has cooled it is time to knead it. The dough may well be super sticky so add some extra flour as required. Knead the dough until it is smooth and forms a ball.
5. Place on parchment paper or wax paper and leave to cool completely.

Slow Cooker Play Dough



This slow cooker play dough is so easy to make even young kids can get involved in making it!

Supplies

- ½ cup plain flour
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ¼ cup salt
- 2 tbs cream of tartar
- ¾ cup warm water
- 1 tbs oil
- food dye, about 6-8 drops

Directions

1. Add the dry ingredients to the slow cooker bowl and mix well.
2. Add the food dye, water and oil and mix well again.
3. Place the bowl into the slow cooker and cook on low for 30 minutes.
4. Spoon out the dough onto some wax paper and let it cool. Knead until smooth.

Coconut Play Dough



This super soft coconut play dough recipe smells wonderful! A great sensory activity for the summer.

Supplies

- 1½ cup AP flour
- ¼ cup coconut flour
- 2 tbs salt
- 1 tsp cream of tartar
- ¾–1 cup water

Directions

1. Add the first four ingredients to a saucepan and stir well. Add ¾ cup of water and mix. Add more water if necessary until a thick “sludge” has formed – sort of like porridge.
2. Place the saucepan over a low-medium heat and stir frequently until the play dough clumps together in a ball.
3. Spoon the dough out onto a piece of wax paper and leave until cool enough to handle. Knead the dough for a minute or two until smooth, then leave to cool fully. Wrap in wax paper and store in an airtight bag.

Silver and Gold Play Dough



This sparkly silver and gold play dough is perfect for celebrations!

Supplies

- Two batches of the [basic recipe](#)
- Gold and silver watercolor paint
- Gold and silver glitter
- Gold and silver pom poms and sequins (optional)

Directions

1. Make up two separate batches of the basic recipe, but instead of adding food dye, add gold paint and gold glitter to one batch, and silver paint and glitter to the other. Start with a tablespoon or so of paint, stir well, and keep adding paint until desired color has been reached.
2. When the play dough is cool, provide gold and silver pom poms and sequins for extra sparkly play!

Herb and Spice Play Dough



This herb and spice play dough recipe uses natural flavors and scents to create an amazing sensory experience!

Supplies

- [Basic Recipe Dough](#), one for each herb and spice
- Assorted ground herbs and spices (eg paprika, ground turmeric, mustard powder, ground rosemary, cheddar cheese powder, ground cinnamon), suggested quantities below

Directions

1. Mix up each batch of dough according to the basic recipe instructions, adding the following herbs and spices to each one.

Ground Rosemary - 2 tbs

This gives the dough a soft green color and a wonderful woody smell. The ground rosemary might not mix in completely but will give the dough a slightly mottled (not unattractive) color.

Mustard Powder - 1-2 tbs

Mustard powder mixes in really well, giving the dough a subtle light yellow color.

Ground Cinnamon - 1 tbs

The cinnamon produces a lovely milky chocolate-colored dough - and the wonderful warm spicy smell is fantastic!

Ground Turmeric - 1½ tsp

The turmeric gives the dough an amazing bright yellow color and a lovely spicy aroma.

Paprika - 1 tsp

Paprika smells gorgeous and gives a warm red color to the dough.

Cheddar Cheese Powder - 1 tbs

This powder blends really well and produces a lovely light orange dough. The final result is like a ball of cheese sauce!

Almond Edible Play Dough



This no-cook almond edible play dough is easy to make and you can surprise your kids when you tell them that they can EAT it!

Supplies

- 1 cup smooth almond butter
- 1½ cups almond meal
- 4-6 tbs runny honey - start with 4 tbs (¼ cup) and add more as needed

Directions

1. Mix everything together in a bowl – the kids can help you!
2. Turn out the dough and knead the play dough until it sticks together.
3. Make sure the kids have clean hands. Invite them to play with the dough and then break the news to them that they can actually eat a bit!

*Note: Although the dough is perfectly safe to eat (and rather delicious!) it **is** high in calories and fat, so make sure that they don't eat too much of it.*

Valentine's Day Play Dough



Hide some heart gems inside this play dough to turn this activity into a counting game!

Supplies

- Two batches of the [basic recipe](#)
- Red food dye and/or red icing gel
- Plastic heart gems

Directions

1. Make up two batches of play dough according to the basic recipe instructions, adding a little red dye to one to make it pink, and a LOT of red dye to the other to make it red.
2. When the play dough has cooled, add the heart gems to both balls of dough by pushing them inside.
3. Invite your child to find all the hearts!

Jelly Bean Play Dough



Did you know that you can make play dough from jelly beans?!?

Supplies

- 1 bag jelly beans (approx. 10oz)

Then for each color of jelly bean you will need:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup reserved water from melting the jelly beans (see below)
- 2 tbs salt
- 1 tsp cream of tartar

Directions

1. Sort the jelly beans by color and place each color in a separate microwavable bowl.
2. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water to each bowl and cook in the microwave on high for 1-2 minutes or until all the color has dissolved from the beans into the water.
3. Strain out the beans and discard them, save the water.
4. Make a separate batch of play dough for each color following the [basic recipe](#) instructions, but using the dyed and scented water.

Summer Strawberry Play Dough



This all-natural homemade strawberry play dough is made using real strawberries for color and scent!

Supplies

- 3 large very ripe strawberries, chopped
- ½ cup water
- ½ cup flour
- 2 tbs salt
- ½ tsp cream of tartar

Directions

1. Make some scented strawberry water by simmering the strawberries and water together in a saucepan.
2. Squish the strawberries every now and then to extract as much juice as possible and to help them break down.
3. Drain the liquid and reserve it, discard the strawberry pulp. Return the liquid to the saucepan and add the other ingredients. Stir well and continue to cook the play dough according to the instructions in the [basic recipe](#).

Play Dough Ice Cream



Kids can have fun recreating an ice cream store with this fun play dough ice cream!

Supplies

- 1 batch of [basic play dough](#)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 batch of [strawberry play dough](#)
- 1 batch of [chocolate play dough](#)
- Sequins, scoops and plastic ice cream cones (optional)

Directions

1. Make the vanilla play dough according to the basic recipe. Do not add any food dye, but add the vanilla extract.
2. Once all three types of play dough have been made, it is time for the kids to play! Use scoops to mold the play dough into balls, and place them in a plastic cone or bowl. Add sequins as pretend sprinkles!

Fall Play Dough



This fall play dough looks gorgeous and is scented with cinnamon, apple, pumpkin and ginger!

Supplies

- Four batches of the [basic recipe](#) with the following additions:
- Apple: 2 tsp apple-flavored gelatin*
- Cinnamon: 1tbs ground cinnamon
- Pumpkin: 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- Ginger: 1 tsp ground ginger
- Yellow, green, and red food dye
- Assorted extra play items, eg fall-themed plastic gems, pom poms, cinnamon sticks, fall-themed cookie cutters, feathers, artificial leaves

*Alternatives would be apple extract, apple juice, or apple shampoo!

Directions

1. Make each batch of play dough , adding in the scents as listed above. Add food dye as desired.
2. Once the play dough has cooled, set everything out. It will look so inviting to your kids!

Pumpkin Play Dough



This pumpkin play dough is a wonderful sensory activity for the fall and Halloween!

Supplies

- 1½ cups AP flour
- 1½ cups cold water
- 6 tbs salt
- 3 tsp cream of tartar
- 2 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- Red and yellow food dye
- Baking pumpkin

Directions

1. Make the play dough from the first six ingredients following instructions in the [basic recipe](#).
2. While the play dough is cooling, prepare the pumpkin by slicing off the top. Scoop out the seeds, then rinse out the pumpkin and pat it dry.
3. Push the play dough into the pumpkin and put the top back on for a really fun presentation!

Christmas Play Dough



These three varieties of play dough are perfect for a Christmas crafty playdate!

Supplies

- Three batches of [basic play dough](#) with the following additions:
- White & Sparkly: 1 tsp vanilla extract and silver glitter
- Pine: Fresh sprigs of pine tree and green food dye
- Cranberry: ½ cup fresh cranberries and extra flour
- Assorted extra play items in red white and green, eg pipe cleaners, pom poms, beads, craft sticks, sequins

Directions

1. White & Sparkly: Make the play dough according to the basic recipe instructions with the addition of the vanilla and glitter.
2. Pine: Make pine-scented water by boiling a sprig of pine tree in water. Use this water instead of plain water in the basic recipe. Add finely chopped pine needles and green dye.
3. Cranberry: Boil the cranberries in water until they have reduced down. Push the mixture through a sieve and use the fruity water in place of plain water in the basic recipe. The cranberries can make the dough stickier than normal so extra flour may need to be added.
4. Set out all the play dough and the play items and invite the kids to get creative!

A photograph of a pizza in an open cardboard box. The pizza has a thick crust, red tomato sauce, and is topped with shredded yellow cheese. A semi-transparent rectangular overlay is placed over the center of the pizza. Inside this overlay, there is a banner of colorful triangular flags, the word 'Craftulate' in a blue serif font, and a line of text with a URL. The background shows the white interior of the pizza box and a wooden surface.

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