



# Play Dough Paired with Books

Children love to play with playdough, rolling, sculpting, and molding. Add some props from around the home and playdough becomes a powerful way to support children's learning.

Playdough lets children use their imaginations while strengthening muscles in the hands and fingers, the same muscles they will one day use to hold a pencil and write.



It doesn't stop there, it is a great activity for exploring the alphabet and for extending the story of any children's book. Enhancing children's comprehension of the story, building upon experiences, deepening their knowledge, and exploring the stories more deeply.

Colored playdough and around-the-house playdough prop will enhance any story and promote engagement.



- Blocks
- Birthday candles
- Bottle caps
- Cookie cutters
- Combs
- Garlic press



- Small toy people and animal
- Buttons and other small objects
- Leaves, twigs, pebbles



- Plastic knives, forks, and spoons
- Feathers
- Small toy people and animal





Playdough can help children build vocabulary as they explain what they are doing. Children use language to invent stories about their playdough creations. Children also refer to things they did or saw in their everyday lives.

Making playdough, following a recipe helps children connect written and spoken words and learn about print. Why people write, in this case, the writing explains how to make playdough.

Encourage rolling playdough into snakes and use them to form letters. Discuss action words like *squish* and *slice* and descriptive words like *mushy* and *sticky*.

Playdough and props can complement any book and engage children in meaningful play.



These types of experiences help children learn new words and communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively—skills they will need when they learn to read and write.



Creating with playdough is a great strategy for self-regulating. Pounding, flattening, and squeezing are healthy and safe outlets for extra energy. They can also help children cope with strong feelings. When children seem stressed or angry, get out the playdough and props!