

Focus plan for Knowledge and understanding of the world

(Goals for exploration and investigation) Activity - Cornflour dough Date -

Learning intention

Using all the senses as appropriate to investigate materials

Resources

Cornflour dough, optional - rolling pins, cutters

How the activity will be carried out

Make the dough with the children as a prior activity, as this dough needs to be cooked.

Recipe: 2 cups salt, 1 cup cornflour, 1 cup warm water, optional - oil, colouring. Mix all the ingredients together thoroughly. Stir over a low heat until texture becomes firm. This dough is softer and easier to manipulate than ordinary salt dough, but because of this it is better used to make shapes and models which lie flat.

Children should be organised in small groups. Invite them to explore the modelling material, manipulating and experiencing to their satisfaction. Smell it, discuss how its appearance has changed, talk about the textures before and after cooking, how it handles. If they wish, children may roll out the dough and use cutters to make shapes. This material can be hardened and dried in a gentle oven for several hours. Finished models can be painted or otherwise decorated, then displayed with children's comments displayed close by.

NB - children with eczema should not handle dough with salt in -vinyl gloves could be provided.

Questions to ask/Language to use

Mix, dough, shape, mould, model, bake, smell, look, feel, soft, hard, smooth, easy, touch, paint, glitter, roll, cut

Differentiation (Birth to Three)

Allow children to simply explore the material in their own time and manner

Extension

According to the season, make a selection of seasonal shapes, decorate appropriately and encourage children to write a selection of seasonal words to display with the models.

Evaluation