

## Wendy's Quick and Easy Long life Play Dough Its Importance in Play and Recipe for

### The Value of Play Dough as a Learning Tool

Firstly, children will benefit simply from the feel of the dough. Using their hands to manipulate the playdough as they play with it, will provide great stimulation for the senses, and add extra understanding of how things work.

As they become a little more proficient, they will be able to start constructing simple shapes and objects from the clay, by combining shapes and colours. It will certainly help them to develop the manual dexterity skills necessary for writing, drawing, painting etc. Children are not dextrous at all to begin with and dough will provide a fun and exciting opportunity for them to develop these skills.

Play dough is flexible, it grows with the child, and as he or she gets older its uses can become more complex. You can introduce colours, shapes, texture, and moulding, stretching, cutting, making models- the list is endless. That is why moulding dough or clay is used throughout the pre-primary, primary and secondary stages of school.

### Recipe for Wendy's Long life Play Dough

One of my classroom assistants made the best play dough for children. It is so simple, quick and this is the recipe:

#### Ingredients

1 cup plain flour  
½ cup salt  
1 cup water  
1tbs water  
1tsp cream of tartar  
food colouring

#### Method

Mix all the ingredients in a pan and cook slowly over a low heat, stirring all the time. The mixture will thicken and come away from the sides as it forms a dough. Remove from heat, turn onto a floured board and knead thoroughly until it cools. Store in an airtight container and it will keep for many months.

It is so quick and easy to make. You can choose any colour you want (the more the better) and add glitter or smelly oils if you wish.