

A STEM in the Park Take Home Activity

STEM in the PARK

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Pumpkin Pie Play Dough

Grades preK-4

What You Need

- 5 1/2 cups flour
- 2 cups salt
- 8 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 3/4 cup oil
- 1 (1 1/12 ounces) container pumpkin pie spice
- Orange food coloring (2 parts yellow, 1 part red)
- 4 cups water



What To Do

- Mix all of the ingredients together.
- Cook and stir over medium heat until all lumps disappear.
- Knead the dough on a floured surface until it is smooth.
- Store in an airtight container. This dough will smell very good and although it's not harmful to eat we do suggest that children don't eat it after they have been playing with it

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Observe...

For young children:

- Start slowly by letting the child simply observe you playing.
- Stimulate the other senses—ask your child: How does the dough smell? Does it smell like any food you remember? How does the dough feel? What color is it?
- Listen to the sound it makes when it is dropped on the table.
- Offer small manageable pieces at first and let the child experiment. Ask your child to copy a shape such as a ball.

For older children:

- Provide kitchen tools (plastic utensils, a rolling pin and pizza cutters can all be used to reshape the dough) and a small pie tin.
- Have them make their own pie using the dough.
- Have them observe: What happens if we leave the dough out in the air overnight?

Learn...

Playing with play dough helps build fine motor skills including strength and dexterity in the hands. Rolling and shaping the dough develops strength in finger and wrist muscles. Play dough also encourages artistic creativity. Using spices with the dough increases its use as a sensory material as it stimulates touch, smell, and sight.

Investigate...

What would happen if you used more flour, more water, different spices, or different colors of food coloring? Visit TeachNet for other Play Dough recipes <http://www.teachnet.com/lesson/art/playdough061699.html>

