



BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL

March 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

Yesterday you received an email from your child's teachers with a message to read to them. I will be sharing ideas for songs, games, activities and recipes with you. Today I start with our Playdough Recipe and a Song Book. We hope that you will find these suggestions useful.

And I think no one will be surprised if I suggest lots of snuggling together and reading.

Please email me at any time if you have a question, or perhaps a suggestion to share with all our parents.

In Friendship,
Sara

Making Playdough

The children make playdough almost every week with their teachers. Besides being a lot of fun to make and play with, there is also learning happening in very age appropriate ways. Playdough is created from a number of ingredients that look alike—flour, salt, cream of tartar—and children will notice that things that look alike may feel and taste different. They can also see what happens when two or three colors are combined and how heat can change ingredients (science). They follow ("read") a recipe, measure and count (math)... Of course, the end product is an adventure all of its own. Playdough can be shaped with hands, rolled with a rolling pin, and cut into shapes with safe plastic knives, pizza cutters, or cookie cutters. Playdough is easy to manipulate and young children enjoy mushing, rolling, poking, squishing and shaping playdough.

Playdough Recipe

(Makes a batch large enough for several children. For smaller amounts, simply halve the quantities.)

Measure and put in a saucepan: 4 cups flour 4 cups water 2 cups salt 8 tablespoons oil 8 teaspoons cream of tartar Food coloring

Step One: Go over the recipe with your child, explaining the different steps. This introduces the concept of "reading" a recipe, and following a sequence.

Step Two: Measure and pour into the bowl 4 cups of flour.

Step Three: Measure and add 4 cups of water. Explore what happens as the water pours in. Some questions that can be asked are, "Do the water and flour automatically mix together?" and "Do they look the same in the bowl?"

Step Four: Measure and add 2 cups of salt. The same questions can be asked as with step Three.

Step Five: Measure and add 8 tablespoons of oil.

Step Six: Measure and add 8 teaspoons of cream of tartar. Consider how some of the ingredients may be mixing on their own, and how some haven't. The question can be asked, "Does it look like playdough yet?"

Step Seven: Add food coloring (one or many colors can be used). Begin mixing the ingredients until consistent texture is achieved. Your child will now see what is changing, and how. Does it change all at once, or gradually? How do the colors mix together to form a different and new color?

Step Eight: Heat on stove at medium flame stirring constantly until it thickens and begins to come together and then falls away from the sides.

Remove from the heat and let cool to room temperature. Be sure to let your child carefully view the mixture as it cooks and becomes "playdough." Playdough should be stored in an airtight container or a ziplock bag. It can also be left to air dry and harden, but cracking may occur.

Singing

In the Family Center we have Sing with Tony on Wednesdays. Although not all of your children are here that day to participate in Sing, I wanted to share the Dinosaurs, Dolphins and Friends Songbook put together by Tony, with songs he does with the children here, as well as others he has performed with kids over the years. [See attachment here.](#)