

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Parent and Child Care Provider Resource

Preschool Fall Activity

Growing and Learning through Play

The following activity will support children's learning. Talk with children and ask questions as you play with them. As children listen to you, they build language and social skills, further reinforcing the concepts you are teaching. Match activities to children's favorite books, songs, or toys to make them more meaningful learning experiences. Visit our website at www.chs-ca.org to discover more learning resources.



Activity : Pumpkin Pie Playdough

What you need:

- 6 ½ cups of flour
- 2 cups of salt
- 3 tablespoons cream of tartar
- ¾ cup of vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons of pumpkin pie spice
- Orange food coloring (approximately 4 drops of yellow and 2 drops of red food coloring will make orange)
- 4 ½ cups of water
- Large skillet and stovetop or an electric skillet
- Wooden spoon
- Extra flour for kneading
- An airtight container
- Video about how to knead dough: <https://youtu.be/BJiucv88fIM>

What to do:

- Prepare supplies in advance. Make sure there is a clean table that can be used for kneading the playdough
- Invite children to combine all of the ingredients into the skillet or electric skillet. Talk about the textures, colors, and smells of the ingredients
- An adult will need to stir the mixture over medium heat on a stovetop until all the lumps disappear. If you choose to use an electric skillet on a table so that children can observe the cooking process, make sure they sit a safe distance from it to prevent any burn accidents, and once the playdough is cooked, unplug the skillet, and place it out of children's reach to cool
- Allow the dough to rest until it is cool enough to touch safely, but still warm
- Invite children to help **knead the dough** on a clean flour covered surface (table). You may need to add additional flour if necessary, until the mixture is smooth and does not stick to the table
- Clean the table surface, ask children to wash their hands, and distribute the playdough evenly amongst them. Invite them to explore the playdough and see what they can make with it
- Store playdough in an airtight container to be used again. Remember to ask children to wash their hands each time they want to use playdough in order to prevent the spread of illness
- Optional: Add additional tools to the playdough activity such as wooden dowels for rolling dough, cookie cutters, child-safe scissors, or sticks for poking holes in the dough

What the activity does:

- Strengthens fine and large motor skills
- Practices cooking skills (measuring, following directions)
- Develops language through conversation and new vocabulary (naming colors, textures, ingredients)
- Introduces the math/science concept of how red and yellow can make orange

