

How To Make

Squishy, Squashy, Playdough Words



Learning To Read The Messy Way!

Once you've made playdough, you'll never want to buy the shop-bought stuff again! It's ridiculously easy to make and even more fun to play with once it's done. The squishing, squashing, ripping and rolling will really give your child's fingers a work out. It will build the strength in their hands to help them tackle so many day to day tasks, like buttoning their coat or holding a pencil to write.

It's wonderful for tactile learners, the sort of active children who prefer 'doing' and 'feeling' things to experience the world around them. Using playdough is a really fun (and messy!) way to sneak in some extra reading and spelling practise at home when they might not have the gusto to read a whole book. They'll love rolling the dough into long sausages and repositioning them to make letters of the alphabet, their name or tricky words that they are struggling to read fluently. You'll be surprised at how eager they want to practise reading when they think it's just 'playtime'.

You will need:

- 2 cups of plain flour**
- 1 cup of salt**
- 2 cups of water**
- 2 tablespoons of oil**
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar**
- Food colouring**



Instructions



Put 2 cups of flour into a sauce pan.



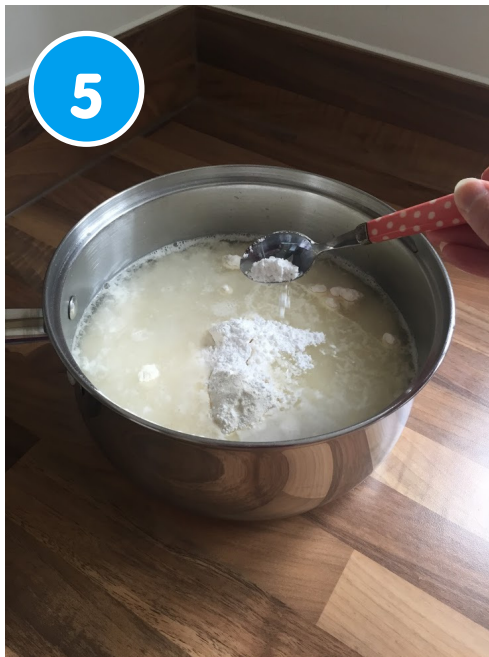
Add 1 cup of salt.



Pour in 2 cups of water.



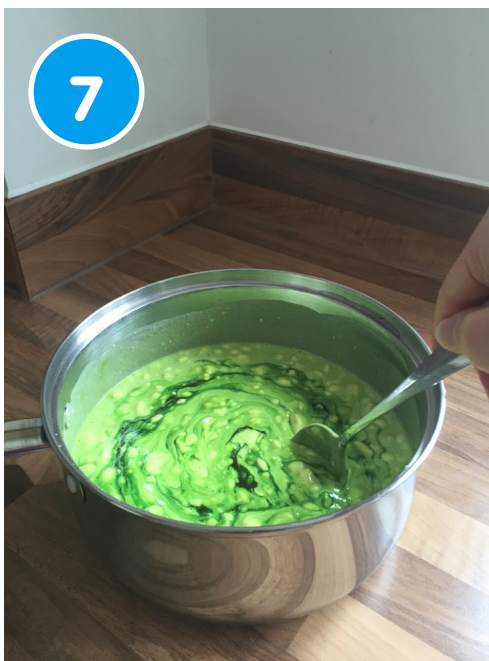
Then add 2 tablespoons of oil.



Sprinkle in 4 teaspoons of cream of tartar.



Add a splash of food colouring (we chose green to make gooey alien words!)



Mix all the ingredients together until smooth and even in colour.



Cook on the hob and stir until it comes away from the side of the pan in a ball.

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Leave it to cool, then roll into long sausages and away you go. We've jazzed up the playdough letters to make them look like aliens by attaching some bendy pipecleaners, colourful sticks and googly eyes. Your child will love putting them together to make friends... see what words magically appear for them to read!

Star Tips

- ★ Give your dough a delicious smell by mixing a different flavour into the ingredients, such as lemon, peppermint or vanilla extract.
- ★ To keep the dough fresh and long lasting for up to 6 months, store it in an air tight container or a zip lock bag.