Play Dough at Home

We can work with play dough at home the same way we would work with clay. You can:

**Pinch:** use your fingers to pinch a small ball of dough into a bowl or other shapes

**Slab:** roll or pat a lump of dough into a flat sheet

**Coil:** roll long “snakes” of clay and wind them up to form a vessel or decorative shape

**Suggested supplies:**
- Dough ingredients (see recipes)
- Wax paper or parchment paper
- Toothpicks or wooden skewers to use as decorating tools
- Cookie cutters
- Plastic knife
- Paint and/or markers
- Paint brush
- Mod podge or thinned craft glue to use as a sealer your creations

3 Make At Home Play Dough Recipes

1. **Glue and Corn Starch Dough**
   (this recipe is my favorite!)
   - 1 cup cornstarch
   - 1 cup Elmers glue or white craft glue
   - 1 tablespoon white vinegar or lemon juice as a preservative
   - 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

**Directions**
- Mix everything together in a microwave safe bowl.
- Cook for 30 seconds, stir and cook for additional 30 seconds.
- The mixture should start to look dry and lumpy.
- Stir and turn out onto corn starch dusted counter or board.
- Knead and store in plastic bag or container.

*Funded in part by the Tennessee Arts Commission and Arts Build Communities grant.*
2. Salt and Flour dough:
- 1 cup flour
- 2 tsp cream of tartar
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 cup water
- A few drops of food coloring or unsweetened kool-aid packs for color

Directions
- In a large bowl, combine all of your dry ingredients (flour, cream of tartar, salt, 2 Kool-Aid packets - if using) and mix well.
- Add the vegetable oil and water to a pot. Mix together.
- Add the dry ingredients to your pot and mix well.
- Cook on low - medium heat, stirring with wooden spoon, until dough starts to form and become dry.
- Once a ball of dough starts to form and the playdough looks fully cooked, remove from the heat and let the dough cool before touching.
- If you added in extra Kool-aid packets, it may take longer to cook. Just keep mixing until the dough forms.
- After the dough has cooled, knead it for 5 minutes to make the dough soft and smooth.
- Store in plastic container with lid.

3. Baking Soda Corn Starch Dough
- 2 cups of baking soda
- 1 cup of cornstarch
- 1 1/4 cups of water

Directions
- Place all ingredients into a pot over medium heat.
- Stir the mixture with a wooden spoon until it thickens and becomes the consistency of mashed potatoes.
- Let cool for a few minutes in the pot, then turn out not corn starch dusted counter or board and knead until smooth and no longer sticky.
- Store in plastic container with lid or plastic bag.

All 3 dough recipes can be played with roll, pinch, coil. If you would like to save your pieces roll out thin slabs and dry SLOWLY. It will take a couple of days to dry. Decorate with markers, paint, glue and glitter - whatever inspires you!

When you finish your project, share a picture in Facebook messenger to Discovery Center!