

First Friends Playdough

Combine in large saucepan or double boiler:

1 cup flour
1/2 cup salt
2 teaspoons cream of tartar
1 tablespoon salad oil
1 cup water
food coloring or non-toxic paint
dash of peppermint (optional)

Mix well and stir over medium heat until mixture becomes thick and forms a ball. Shouldn't be sticky. Knead well and store in covered container or ziplock bag. Can be doubled for a larger batch. Lasts indefinitely, even when left out for long periods. This is Teacher Vicki's all-time, favorite recipe for making playdough.

Kool-Aid Playdough

Combine in large bowl:

1 cup flour
1/2 cup salt
1 package unsweetened Kool-Aid

Stir in:

1 tablespoon salad oil
1 cup boiling water

Allow to cool slightly. Knead well and store in covered container or ziplock bag. Can be doubled for a larger batch. Lasts indefinitely, even when left out for long periods. The Kool-Aid gives this dough a bright color as well as a nice smell. Kids can mix it themselves after the hot water is put in.

To color rice or any kind of pasta for craft projects:

Pour a cup or two of uncooked rice or noodles into a large ziplock bag. Pour in a small amount (several drops, depending on the intensity you want) of food coloring. Add about a half capful of rubbing alcohol to set the color. Seal the bag and shake well until all the color is spread evenly. Pour out and spread onto newspapers to dry. Can be used for pouring, sifting and scooping in a plastic tub, or glued onto cardboard or paper for collages.

Permanent Dough

Combine in large bowl:

2 cups flour
2 cups salt
1/2 cup hot water
1 tablespoon powdered alum

Mix well and add:

1 teaspoon oil

Add a little more water as you mix, until the right consistency to form a ball. Shouldn't be too dry or too sticky. Can be doubled for a larger batch. If made ahead, store in an airtight container. Knead well and form into three dimensional projects or roll out and cut with cookie cutters for pendants or magnets. Air dry on foil for several days, or in a low oven for several hours. For colored dough, add food coloring or tempera paint before making objects. Or, finished objects may be painted with tempera or acrylic paints.