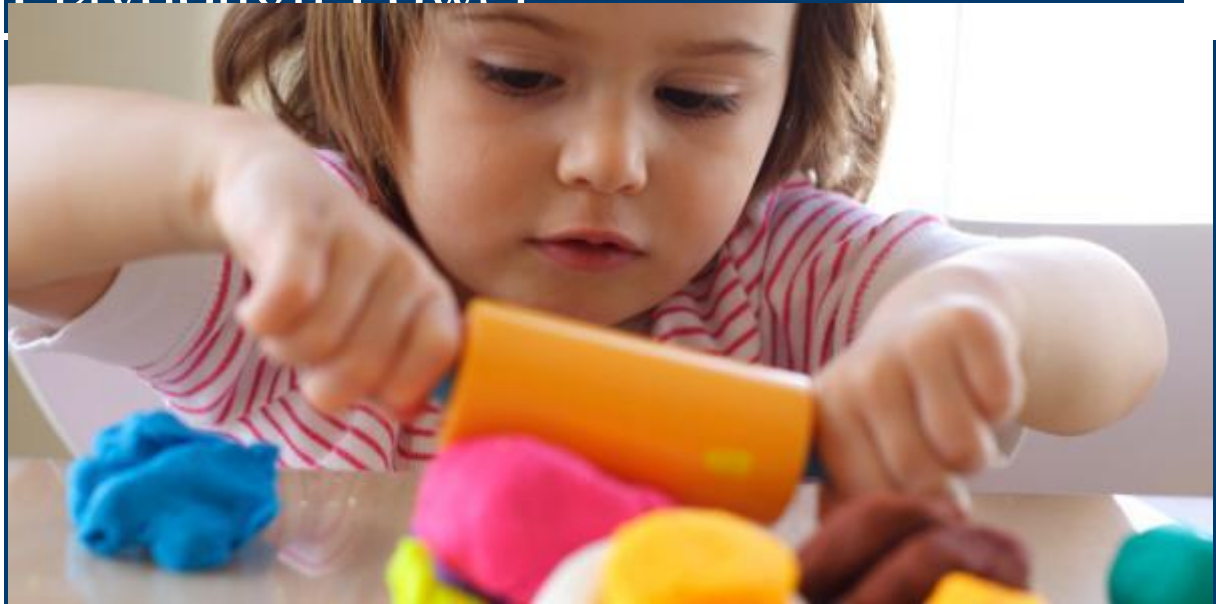


Playdough Power



Squishing, rolling, sculpting, molding . . . young children love to play with playdough. Add some props from around the home and playdough play becomes a powerful way to support your child's learning. This simple preschool staple lets children use their imaginations and strengthen the small muscles in their fingers—the same muscles they will one day use to hold a pencil and write. Using playdough with you, a friend, or siblings supports your child's social skills such as sharing, taking turns, and enjoying being with other people. Playdough also encourages children's language and literacy, science, and math skills—all at the same time! Playdough can provide hours of fun and learning at home. Besides the playdough, all you need are a clear surface, a few household items, and lots of time for fun.

Around-the-House Playdough Props ideas:

- Birthday candles
- Blocks
- Bottle caps
- Cookie cutters
- Combs
- Garlic press (be prepared to give it up forever)
- Large buttons and other objects that can be pressed into the playdough to make a design
- Feathers
- Leaves, twigs, pebbles
- Plastic knives, forks, and spoons
- Rolling pin or bottle
- Small toy people and animals
- Straws
- String or shoelaces