

## Clay, Fingerprint and More

### Salt-Flour Clay

2 cups flour  
1 cup salt  
1 cup water  
food coloring

Mix flour and salt. Gradually add water. A little oil can be used to improve the texture. Depending on weather and flour absorbency, the water amount may vary. Store in a plastic bag in the refrigerator. This dough can be used to make ornaments and shapes.

Bake thin objects at 150-200°; thicker objects at 250-350°. Watch thin objects closely. Reduce oven temperature if they start browning too quickly.

### Cornstarch Fingerprint

3 tablespoons sugar  
1/2 cup cornstarch  
2 cups cold water  
food coloring  
liquid dishwashing soap

Mix sugar and cornstarch in medium saucepan over low heat. Add cold water and stir until mixture is thick. Remove from heat. Divide into four or five portions (in muffin tins or cups). Add a drop or two of food coloring and a pinch of soap to each portion. Stir and let cool. Store in airtight container.

### Oobligook

2 cups warm water  
3 cups cornstarch  
food coloring

Put ingredients in bowl and mix with your hands. This "Oobligook" becomes liquid when left alone, but turns solid from the heat of your hands. Pour it onto a tray and use fingers or utensils to trace lines in the Oobligook. Watch the solid become liquid again. Fascinating!

### Flubber

2 cups Elmer's white glue  
1 1/2 cups cold water  
1 cup hot water  
1 tablespoon Borax\*  
food coloring

Combine glue with the cold water and mix well. Add food coloring and blend well. In a separate container, mix the hot water with the Borax. Try not to make bubbles. Gradually pour the Borax mixture into the colored glue mixture. Stir with a spoon, then mix with your hands when it begins to hold together. Have fun!

\*Borax is available in the laundry section of many supermarkets.

# BANANAS HANDOUT

## Mini Art Guide



**Art is one of the most important experiences for young children.** It helps them gain strengths in muscle coordination, emotional development, pre-reading skills, self-confidence and self expression. Children enjoy and learn from the process of creating art, so set up some basic materials and let them go wild!

These guidelines encourage experimentation and imagination:

- **Give Praise and Encouragement** — Provide new experiences with a variety of art forms and build their self-confidence through praise. It can be as simple as, "I can see you worked really hard on that painting. You must be proud of yourself."
- **Let Children Create** — Children learn from doing. You don't have to make a model for them to copy; they might get frustrated and discouraged if they can't copy it perfectly. By trying new ways to use art materials, children master concepts and learn from mistakes through their own work.
- **You Don't Have to Ask, "What is it?"** — Children don't always have an exact idea of what they draw; they're exploring the possibilities of color, forms and lines. You might comment on the details and colors, or ask, "Would you like to tell me about your painting?"



## Art Projects

**Painting** – Paint with brushes, rollers, hands, sponges, bubble-wrap, fly-swatters, marbles in trays; use your imagination.

**Tempura** – Make different textures by mixing corn meal, sawdust, coffee grounds, glitter, or salt with the paint.

**Group painting** – Provide large sheets of paper (like butcher paper) for several children to work on together. Can be laid flat on the floor or hung up on the wall. This is especially good for outside work.

**Printing With Tempura Paint** – Press any of the following objects into a tray of paint, then onto a surface:

Gadgets	Sponges	String	Fruit	Leaves	Feathers	Cork
Blocks	Twigs	Stones	Spools	Feet	Fingers	Vegetables

**Gluing and Cutting** – Collect small objects for collage projects: buttons, keys, shells, cotton balls, fabric scraps, ribbon, feathers, etc. You can mix glue with paint or glitter.

Paper on paper – Use paste; children cut or tear out their own designs.

Group collages – Use any material on large sheets of paper.

Nature collages – Glue leaves, flowers, sand, etc. on sturdy backgrounds like cardboard or heavy paper.

Fabric (wool, cotton, etc.) – Use paste or white glue to put pieces together.

Tissue paper on meat trays – Use white glue, thinned with water.

## Structure Building

Cut up straws and paste them on styrofoam with white glue.

Stick toothpicks into lightweight foam rubber.

Build models with small boxes, toilet paper rolls, paper tubes, milk cartons.

Wood scraps (always a hit) — Use soft woods with white glue or wood glue; can be painted.



## More Projects

**Easy-Art Apron** – Use a large, old shirt and cut sleeves short.

**Food coloring** – Squirt with an eyedropper onto tissue paper or round coffee filters for different effects.

**Necklaces** – Thread Cheerios, cut-up straws, or macaroni onto string, yarn, or shoelaces.

**Cut folded paper** for designs on placemats or greeting cards.

**Clay** is harder to work with than playdough. Add water and knead to make it more pliable.

**Crayons and crayon rubbings** — Place a piece of paper over different-textured objects, such as coins or combs, and rub crayons over them.

## Playdough Recipes

**Playdough** has many uses: try rolling, pinching, forming balls and other basic shapes. Children can create more sophisticated structures as they get older. Some playdough can be baked or left to dry in the form which the children made. You can make scented playdough by adding a packet of unsweetened Kool-Aid, or a few drops of flavor extracts (lemon, peppermint, etc.), or essential oils to these recipes.

### Cooked Playdough

2 cups flour  
1 cup salt  
2 cups water  
2 tablespoons oil  
4 teaspoons cream of tartar  
food coloring

Cook three minutes to the consistency of mashed potatoes. Turn out on waxed paper to cool. Knead a bit. Store in a plastic bag or other air-tight container. The cream of tartar gives the mix a “bounce!”

### No-Cook Playdough

1 cup water  
3 cups flour  
1 1/2 cups salt  
1/4 cup oil  
food coloring or  
1 tablespoon powdered tempura

Combine ingredients and mix. Add more flour if mixture is too sticky. Store in plastic bag.

### Rubbery Playdough

2 cups baking soda  
1 1/2 cups water  
1 cup cornstarch

Add baking soda and cornstarch to water and mix with a fork until smooth. Boil mixture over medium heat for one minute, or until it thickens. Spoon onto waxed paper or a plate until it cools. This dough will respond to the warmth of your hands and will change as the child works with it.

### Microwave Playdough

2 cups flour  
1 cup salt  
2 cups water  
2 tablespoons oil  
2 teaspoons cream of tartar  
food coloring

Mix ingredients in a microwave bowl with a plastic mixing spoon. Cook at one minute intervals, stirring in between each minute, for 5 to 7 minutes. Let playdough cool a little before handling. This recipe eliminates the need to have children stand over a hot stove. But be sure to be careful when stirring the mixture – it will be very hot!

BANANAS has a handout featuring ideas for “Baker’s Dough Ornaments.” Stop by our office for a copy, request one by mail, or download from [www.bananasinc.org](http://www.bananasinc.org).