

We will be adding some family STEM activities to our PAW Alerts, along with some follow-up discussion questions to spark interest and conversation with your child(ren). We hope you enjoy the activities. Please email Ms. Snyder ([Lyndsey E Snyder@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Lyndsey_E_Snyder@mcpsmd.org)) with any questions.

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Make Play Dough - then save it for upcoming activities!

Ingredients: 2 ½ cups water, 1 ¼ cup salt, 1 ½ tablespoon cream of tartar, 5 tablespoons vegetable oil, 2 ½ cups flour, food coloring

Steps

1. Place all the ingredients except the food coloring together in a large pot and stir until somewhat smooth. It will be lumpy.
2. Place the pot on the stove and cook over a low heat. Stir frequently with a large spoon. The water will slowly cook out of the mixture and it will start to take on a sticky dough appearance. Keep mixing until the edges of the dough along the side and bottom of the pan appear dry. Pinch a piece of dough. If it's not gooey, the dough is ready.
3. Place the dough on a baking sheet, or large cutting board that can withstand a little food coloring.
4. Knead the warm dough until it's smooth and then divide it into the number of colors that you'd like to make. If you don't want paint-stained hands, you could wear gloves for this step.
5. Play with the dough right away or store it in a large Ziplock bag or sealed container. It will be good for a few months.

Possible discussion topics: Color mixing, cooking, what happens if you leave the play dough out too long?, measurement/math - if I wanted more play dough how could I change the recipe?

<https://frugalfun4boys.com/science-demonstration-air-takes-up-space/>

Play dough marble runs

<https://www.wikihow.com/Create-a-Mini-Volcano>

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/make-elephant-toothpaste/>

<https://www.pta.org/home/programs/stem/at-home>

<https://www.parametricstudioinc.com/blog/5-easy-stem-activities-you-can-do-with-everyday-household-items>

<https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/education/blog/simple-stem-activities-for-kids/#:~:text=Cloud%20in%20a%20Jar.%20Condensation%2C%20water%20cycles,the%20formation%20of%20a%20cloud%20for%20kids.>

<https://www.weareteachers.com/stem-activities/>

<https://www.msichicago.org/science-at-home/hands-on-science/egg-drop-challenge>

<https://littleguidedetroit.com/12-stem-experiments-kids-can-create-with-household-items/>

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/magic-milk-a-classic-science-experiment-for-kids/>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/make-your-own-invisible-ink-605973>

<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/stem-activities/paper-rocket>