HOME-MADE RECIPES FOR FUN

Finger Paint

½ cup dry laundry detergent or
1 capful liquid dish soap
2 tablespoons liquid starch
food coloring
Combine all ingredients. Beat with an eggbeater until thick. This can be used on any shiny surfaced paper (freezer wrap works well).

Magic Paint Bag:

¼ cup liquid starch
3 tablespoons powdered tempera paint
large ziploc plastic bag
masking tape
Mix starch and paint. Put in bag and seal opening with tape. Lay paint bag on any surface for a no-mess creative activity.

Giant Chalk Sticks:

2 tablespoons powdered tempera paint
½ cup water
3 tablespoons plaster of paris
Combine ingredients. Mix well. Pour into small waxed paper cups. Remove cup when mixture has hardened.

Sparkle Paint:

1 part flour
1 part salt
1 part water tempera paint
Mix flour, salt, and water. Add tempera until the desired color is obtained. The finished product will dry "sparkly". (Less water will create more sparkle).

Shiny Finger Paint:

¼ cup light corn syrup
food coloring
Mix together, use as you would any other finger paint. Dries glossy.

Face Paint:

2 tablespoons white vegetable shortening
5 teaspoons cornstarch
1 teaspoon white flour
Blend all ingredients together. Add vegetable dye to obtain desired coloring.

Rainbow Colors:

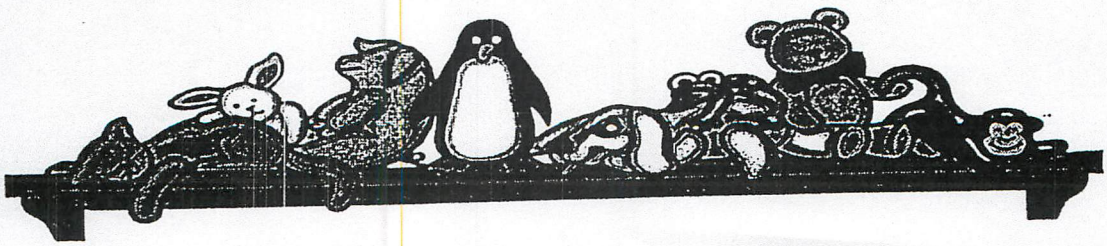
Rubber band several crayons together, with coloring tips even. Use to color rainbow stripes or any variety of multi-colored creations.

Glue Paint:

White glue
Water
Food coloring
Color white glue with food coloring. Paint on waxed paper.

Bubble Recipe

1 cup water
⅓ cup liquid dish soap
1 tablespoon sugar
Combine ingredients. Use bubble wands, empty spools, bottomless paper cups, berry baskets, etc. to blow bubbles.



Dissolve soap powder in water, add starch and food coloring.

Edible Peanut Butter Play Dough

This recipe is especially good for toddlers because they can play with the dough and then eat it. (Be sure to wash hands and work area!) It's also one of my favorite candies, when made with peanut butter and powdered sugar!

1 c. peanut butter
1/2 c. honey
1 c. plus 1/2 c. powdered milk

Mix ingredients and roll into balls.

Cook Play Dough

1 c. flour
1/2 c. salt
2 tsp. cream of tarter
1 c. water
1 T. oil
food coloring

Mix first three ingredients together and then add last three. Cook on low heat, stirring constantly, until it forms a ball and becomes dull.

Kool-Aid Play Dough
(no cooking required)

3 c. flour
1/2 c. salt
1 pkg. unsweetened Kool-aid
1 T. alum
2 c. boiling water

Mix together first three ingredients then add boiling water. Knead dough with up to an additional 1 c. of flour until it becomes the right consistency.

Jell-O Play Dough
(no cooking required)

4 c. flour
1 c. salt
2 pkgs. unsweetened Jell-O
4 tsp. cream of tartar
2 c. boiling water
2 tsp. cooking oil or baby oil

Mix together first three ingredients then add boiling water and oil. Mix together well and knead until dough becomes the right consistency.

These edible recipes for play dough are perfect for pre-school children that love to eat their art supplies and for us older children to join them and play and eat, too. Let the children help mix the dough because oh how they love to get their hands into mushy stuff (and this is a whole lot better than mud and dirt).

A great thing about a play dough activity is that it allows children to experience different textures and use four out of their five senses. Encourage creativity by putting out cookie cutters, little bowls, lids from jars, measuring spoons... and add to their fun by giving them Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Corn Flakes, colored cake decorating sprinkles/dots, chocolate chips, ice cream cones and other such items. To help them in their play-acting, give them Graham Cracker teddy bears and animal crackers.

I suggest covering a play area surface with waxed paper and let the children have a good time both creating and eating but be sure to give them some ideas and examples to get them started! Enjoy these fun projects with your children by letting your imagination be your guide be an "un-grownup", it's great fun!

KOOL-AID PLAY DOUGH
This play dough is colorful and has a wonderful fragrance too. The kids just love it!
Ingredients:
1/2 cup salt
2-1/2 cups flour
2 packages Kool-Aid
3 tablespoons oil
2 cups boiling water

Directions: Mix dry ingredients. Add oil. Add water and knead.

Storage: Store in plastic bags in the refrigerator.

JELL-O PLAY DOUGH
Ingredients:
1 cup flour
1/2 cup salt
1 cup water
1 tablespoon oil
2 teaspoons Cream of Tartar
1 (3-1/2-oz.) package "unsweetened" Jell-O

Directions: Mix all ingredients together and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until consistency of mashed potatoes. Let cool and knead with floured hands until dry.

Storage: This recipe needs to cool completely "before" storing it in an airtight container! Note: The items made from this play dough recipe can be painted when they are dry.

OATMEAL DOUGH
Ingredients:
1 part flour
2 parts oatmeal
1 part water

Directions: Mix ingredients together and form into shapes. Note: The items made from this play dough recipe can be painted when they are dry.

SMOOTH PEANUT BUTTER PLAY DOUGH
Ingredients:
2 cups smooth peanut butter
2 cups rolled oats
2 cups dried milk
2/3 cups honey

Directions: Mix all ingredients until thoroughly combined. Storage: When not using, MUST be stored in an airtight container.

FROSTING PLAY DOUGH
Ingredients:
1 can frosting (any flavor)
1-1/2 cups powdered sugar
1 cup creamy peanut butter

Directions: Mix together until dough reaches desired consistency

Storage: When not using, MUST be stored in an airtight container and refrigerated. Next time you want to use it, let it come to room temperature for pliable dough.

And now a couple of chocolate recipes that will require adult supervision for the smaller children -- otherwise they may have some tummy aches from over-eating their art supplies. The following two yummy recipes are great because while the kids are having fun, Mommy is making things to use for cake decorations. These doughs are easy to make worms, letters, flowers, shapes or whatever the children or Mommy can create in their imaginations.

CHOCOLATE PLAY DOUGH
Ingredients:
8 ounces semisweet chocolate
1/4 cup plus one tablespoon light corn syrup

Directions: Melt the chocolate in a metal bowl set over a pan of simmering water (a double boiler). Stir the chocolate with a spoon until smooth, then stir in the corn syrup. The chocolate will stiffen almost immediately but stir until completely combined. Transfer the chocolate to a sturdy plastic bag and refrigerate until firm; the consistency will be that of Play Dough. When firm, the dough can be worked by kneading. If it is too hard, cut off small pieces and knead until pliable. If the dough sticks to the counter when rolling, lightly spray counter or breadboard with vegetable spray or lightly grease with a vegetable oil.
1) Hand shape the dough into a rope or braid, making two or three long ropes and twist or braid them together -- can be used as the outside edge on top of the cake or around the base.
2) Make ribbons to cover the cake. To do this, pat your dough into a disk shape and roll dough out to desired thickness using a rolling pin or else use a manual pasta machine.
3) Flowers, too! Compliments of www.joyofbaking.com

CHOCOLATE CLAY
Ingredients:
10 ounces chocolate, almond bard or candy discs
1/3 cup corn syrup

Directions: Slowly melt candy and stir until smooth. Add syrup and blend thoroughly. Pour onto waxed paper and spread with fingers until about 1/2 inch thick. Cover loosely with waxed paper and allow it to stiffen (couple of hours). Then play and eat. To make flower petals, roll out little balls and flatten them, then pinch the petals together and these make wonderful "I Love You" gifts, even if it isn't Valentine's Day. Compliments of Kim Swanger

Enjoy these fun projects with your children by letting your imagination be your guide... be an "un-grownup", it's fun!

CREAM CHEESE PLAY DOUGH
Ingredients:
8 oz. package of cream cheese
1/2 cup non-fat dry milk
1 tablespoon honey
Crackers or bread slices

Directions: Combine cream cheese, milk and honey in a bowl and mix until well blended. Mold sculptures on wax paper.

Storage: Unused portions MUST BE STORED in an airtight container and kept refrigerated!! Because cream cheese is perishable, use the expiration date on the cream cheese package as your guide for how long you can keep this play dough. Note: The shapes can then be placed on crackers or bread slices, decorated with edibles (celery or carrot slivers, raisins, dried fruit pieces, nuts, or seeds for a healthy snack! then EAT!

CAUTION: Some children are allergic to peanut butter!!!!!
PEANUT BUTTER/GRAHAM CRACKER PLAY DOUGH
(I've listed this recipe so you can help your child experience their senses)
Ingredients:
Equal amounts of Peanut Butter and Marshmallow Creme Graham Crackers

Directions:
1) Allow children to crumble up Graham Crackers into crumbs, then set these aside. Let them have just a little touch of the Marshmallow Creme and a little touch of peanut butter to feel the different textures and to lick off their fingers. (washing hands before project start is a good idea...)
2) Mix the peanut butter and Marshmallow Creme together and have the children notice the change in texture.
3) Cover surface area with wax paper or use a breadboard, let children make into shapes. 4) Roll shapes in Graham Cracker crumbs, then EAT!!!

Storage: When not using, MUST be stored in an airtight container.

PEANUT BUTTER PLAY DOUGH
Ingredients:
One 18-oz jar creamy peanut butter
6 tablespoons honey
3/4 cup non-fat dry milk

Directions: Mix ingredients together, using varying amounts of dry milk for desired consistencies. Knead it with fingers, forming into desired shapes, adding other foods like M&M's or peanuts for eyes, mouths, etc. Great fun! (Thanks to Lisa M.H.))

Storage: When not using, MUST be stored in an airtight container.

GIRL SCOUNT PEANUT BUTTER PLAY DOUGH
Ingredients:
1 cup peanut butter
1/2 cup honey
2 cups powdered sugar

Directions: Mix all ingredients in a bowl, using your hands. Dough should feel soft and pliable. Form shapes and be creative!! Storage: When not using, MUST be stored in an airtight container.