PLAY DOUGH

*Encouraging curiosity and exploration helps build connections in the brain. What can you explore with all five senses? Explore one (safe!) object with all five senses and post pictures. #grow2gether*

Children learn as they play. Play dough provides children the opportunity to communicate and use speaking skills when molding and creating different molds and creations. You can ask open-ended questions and have children explain to support their understanding of how play dough works, changes, and allow them to use their speaking skills. Ex. Ask: What you are making? How does it feel?

Their physical development is developed when mixing play dough. Children use their fine and gross motor skills. As they push and pull they help strengthen little fingers and hands. Some examples: Create pizza dough and ingredients, tall buildings, cars, simple representations of things around the house. Math can also be incorporated by cutting a ball of playdough into small pieces and have your child count each one to make a whole. Developing these skills helps your child’s ability to do more complex skills in future activities.

Play dough is fantastic for building those small muscles! Kneading, pushing and rolling the dough really helps! With the help of your child use it to make alphabet letters and have them pick up the one you call. Letter A, go pick it up and so on.

**Learning on the Go!**

- Build up a role situation together. Create a pizza and have your child deliver it and cut out pieces.
- At the park? Have your child mold things he is seeing in nature. Ex. A tree leaf, bugs, rocks
- Build facial features and have your child mimic the feature. Ex. smile, sadness and frowning faces

Share with us! We would love to see how you did this activity. Use the hashtag #grow2gether so we can find it!