

15 Ideas for Enhancing Language While Playing Together with Play Dough

- 1. Explore with the play dough. Talk about what your child is doing as he plays. Ex. "You're squishing the play dough."*
- 2. Follow your child's lead making the same and different shapes as you play. Imitate any sounds your child makes, or further the conversation.*
- 3. Hide your hand inside the play dough. Act silly and ask where it went. Get excited when your child finds your hand. Say: "Oh, there's my hand. My hand. Your hand. Two hands!"*
- 4. Talk about how the play dough feels. "Oh, it's cold. It's sticky."*
- 5. Hide small toys within the play dough and have your child find the toy. Say: "What's inside? Oh, look! You found a little dog. Woof-woof."*
- 6. If your child is working on developing a certain speech sound, hide a toy beginning with that speech sound within the play dough. Ask the child to say what they found when they see it.*
- 7. Make imprints into the play dough and discuss.*
- 8. Roll cars through the play dough and talk about the different tracks made.*
- 9. Make toy plastic animals walk through the play dough and discuss what remains behind. Discuss similarities and differences between the tracks.*
- 10. What happens when you mix two different colors of play dough?*
- 11. How do your hands feel when you are finished playing with play dough?*
- 12. Roll, pound, squish and flatten the play dough. Talk about the different activities.*
- 13. Take turns making a creation and guess what it is.*
- 14. Try to make a creation from a modeled picture.*
- 15. Make a snowman. Name it and tell a shared story about the snowman. I.e. take turns making sentences for the story.*