

Salt Dough Crafts

Aim: To make crafts out of salt dough

Recipe for Salt Dough:

- 300gs (11oz) flour
 - 300gs (11oz) salt
 - 200ml (7 fl oz) water
 - 30ml (2 tbsp) vegetable oil
1. Mix the flour and salt
 2. Slowly pour the water into the salt and flour and mix well
 3. Pour in the vegetable oil. Mix in well
 4. Remove the salt dough from the mixing bowl. Place onto a clean surface that has been sprinkled with flour. Knead the mixture until it is firm. Sprinkle more flour onto the surface if the dough is sticking.
 5. Wrap the dough in cling film or put it into a plastic bag. Place the dough in the fridge for thirty minutes before you use it.

The dough will keep for several weeks in the fridge.

The dough can be coloured using a few drops of food colourings when it is being kneaded. This can either be done when making up the bulk recipe, or added by the boys. The boys will need some supervision when adding food colourings, as only a few drops are needed!

You could prepare the dough before the section meeting. Or get the older boys to mix the salt dough early on in the evening ready for the other boys to use for their crafts. Remember, the boys will need aprons before mixing the dough. Also, get them to wash their hands first; otherwise the dough will be an odd grey colour!

Drying the Dough:

- Baking tray and parchment paper
- Oven and oven gloves

The dough can be dried on a flat tray at room temperature over several days. Alternatively, cover a baking tray with parchment paper to prevent the dough from sticking to the tray. Carefully lift the dough shapes onto the tray using a palette knife. Bake in a cool oven for about six hours at 120°C, Gas 1/2; thicker dough shapes may take longer.

You may want to take the dough shapes home for drying/cooking and bring them back next week for finishing off. If so, carefully put the initials on the reverse of the dough shapes to make sure each boy gets his own back next week. You might want to make some extra shapes so that boys who are away for the first week get to take part in the second lot of activities.

Finishing Off:

Once the dough is dried, it may have a rough surface. This can be smoothed down with some fine sandpaper. Be careful though, as the salt dough is quite fragile.

The next stages of the craft can then take place with badges, cards, fridge magnets, Christmas tree decorations, name plaques, pendants etc being made.

The dry dough can also be painted with quick drying acrylic paints and finished off with some clear water based 10-minute varnish. (This should be done under careful supervision).



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision



12 to 15 minutes, each activity will take two weeks



An adult should put the items into the oven. Make sure you clean the area thoroughly after the craft.

Week two requires the use of scissors and glue. Leaders should exercise appropriate supervision.

Salt dough craft – Greeting card

Equipment: (week one)

- Rolling pin
- Plastic knife
- Photocopies of templates onto paper
- Scissors
- Aprons

Instructions: (week one)

1. Cut out the template shape.
2. Roll out the dough to approx 10mm thick.
3. Place the template on the dough, cut round it using a plastic knife.
4. Add small balls or strips of dough to decorate the shape. These can be stuck on using a very small amount of water.

Equipment: (week two)

- Acrylic paints and varnish
- Thick coloured card cut into 8cm x 7cm oblong
- Strong glue
- Hole punch
- 30cm ribbon or string for each card

Instructions: (week one)

1. Once the dough has been dried:
2. Paint the dried dough shape with bright colours (quick drying acrylic paint).
3. Once this has dried, paint with quick drying varnish.
4. Punch a hole in the top centre of the card, and the ribbon or string, tying in a loop.
5. Add a message to the back of the card. Some extra help might be needed here for the younger boys.
6. Glue the fish to the card.

Shapes that could be used for the card: include an ice cream, hearts, crown, Christmas tree, snow man, rocket ship, stars etc. using the templates. Let the boys cut out their own shapes and see what they can come up with.

Fridge magnets or badges

As above over a two-week period. Instead of gluing the shape to a card, the salt dough has a small magnet glued to the back; these are available from craft shops. Pin-on badge fastenings can also be bought from craft shops.

Christmas decorations

As above over a two-week period. Using the templates photocopied onto paper for a Christmas tree, snowman, and stars. Before drying, a small hole is made through the dough with a cocktail stick so that a cotton thread loop (approx 10cm) can be tied after it has been painted and varnished. Glitter/glitter glue can be added during the final stages.

Fake Food

Make food shapes out of salt dough. A fried egg, a sausage and a pile of chips. Beans on toast with salt dough in the shape of a piece of bread, and small ovals of dough as beans. A slice of pizza with pepperoni, mushrooms and tomato. A burger and fries. The following week, after the food shapes have dried, these can be painted and varnished and stuck onto paper plates. What favourite foods will your boys come up with?

Coiled Plates

Equipment:

- At least three different coloured dough's with food colourings
- An ovenproof plate approx 20cm in diameter
- Small amount of vegetable oil

Instructions:

1. Rub oil over the surface of the ovenproof plate to stop the dough sticking when it's dried.
2. Roll the dough into strips approx 10mm in diameter.
3. Working from the centre of the plate, coil it round into a spiral so that the edges touch, making sure there are no gaps. Choose another colour and continue to work outwards to the edge of the plate repeating until the plate is covered.
4. Decorate the plate with small shapes of coloured dough around the edges; these can be stuck on using a small amount of water.

Once the dough has been dried or cooked, remove from the plate and varnished. The plate could be decorated with acrylic paint before being varnished. Remind the boys that their plates cannot be used for food or washed; the plates will disintegrate if they get wet. Shallow pots can also be made using a small discs of dough approx 10cm in diameter and 15mm thick. Use the thumbs; make a dip in the centre of the dough, working from the middle gradually pinching up the edges. Decorate the top edges with shapes of dough stuck on with water. Dry, paint and varnish.