

• Together Time •



Read Together 20
Minutes Every Day™

Fun Dough

Reading and playing go hand in hand when it comes to early learning. Find ways to bring your child's favorite book to life during your play time. Blocks and fun dough are two favorites! You can make your own fun dough by following this recipe:

1 cup flour
1/4 cup salt
1 tbs. cooking oil

1/2 cup water
Food coloring

1. Mix the flour and the salt in a bowl.
2. Make a well in the center and pour in the oil.
3. In a separate bowl or dish, add a few drops of food coloring to the water and mix.
4. Add the colored water to the dry ingredients a little at a time.
5. Mix and knead until smooth. Add more water if the mixture is too dry or more flour if it's too sticky.

Play With a Purpose

Blocks and fun dough are great tools to help raise a child who loves reading. Why? Because tools like these “transform” the flat world of books into a child's three dimensional world.

Young children learn by exploring the world with all of their senses. When parents provide children with playful

opportunities to transfer the vocabulary of books into tangible objects, children will learn through their senses by:

- Seeing: the object in the book and the three dimensional object
- Touching: the fun dough to model the object
- Hearing: a parent's instructions and praise
- Smelling: the ingredients by themselves and combined
- Tasting: edible fun dough from recipes online, or foods like cheese sticks to model the object

Think about how fun it will be to use fun dough to create all the food *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* ate. Or imagine the delight sparked by watching your child model Wilbur and Charlotte as they recreate a part of the story from *Charlotte's Web*.

When children are able to bring a concept they have learned in a book into a 3D experience, that knowledge becomes

meaningful and less likely to be forgotten. That's what educators call learning!

Playing with a purpose is all about nurturing skills that are essential for success in school while children do one of their favorite things: play! Along with Reading Together 20 Minutes Every Day, it is one of our guiding principles at The Children's Reading Foundation.

