



## Progression in: Malleable Materials- playdough, clay, dough

Stage	Progression in learning and development - knowledge, understanding and skills demonstrated by the child		Progression in provision – the role of the adult in extending experiences and resources	Vocabulary
Age 1-2 Years	<p>Initial exploration stage</p> 	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Touching the dough/clay.</li> <li>• Patting the dough/clay.</li> <li>• Picking it up and putting it down.</li> <li>• Pulling it.</li> <li>• Pushing <b>large</b> items into the dough.</li> </ul> <p>This stage is characterized by the pure sensory experience of the playdough, with their sense of touch, smell, sight.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model how to pat and squish the dough.</li> <li>• Provide different colours and scents.</li> <li>• Provide dry and sticky dough, wet clay, dry clay etc.</li> <li>• Provide the children with <b>large</b> items to press into the dough/tap the dough.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resources:</b>            Pine cones, sticks, containers, shapes, cutters, rolling pins.</p> <p><i>At this stage, the adult models and supports the children with how to handle the dough, but exploration is key. They give a running commentary on what the children are doing.</i></p>	<p><i>At this stage, practitioners model saying key vocabulary-specific words might be tricky for the children to pronounce.</i></p> <p>Squish, squash, pat, tap, poke.</p>
Ages 3-4 Years	<p>Discovery and imagination stage</p> 	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pounding and hitting the playdough, using their hands and tools.</li> <li>• Squishing, pinching and poking.</li> <li>• Rolling.</li> <li>• "piled" and stacked shapes and clumps.</li> <li>• very little detail.</li> </ul> <p>This stage is characterized by the pure sensory experience of the playdough. Attention is on the manipulation and exploration of the playdough for the sheer pleasure of it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide children with a range of tools for the manipulate the dough/clay with.</li> <li>• Providing large amounts and small amounts of dough/clay for the children to manipulate in different ways.</li> <li>• Model the different techniques of manipulating the dough/play.</li> <li>• Texture of the dough.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resources:</b>            Cutters, rolling pins- some that have different textures to make patterns, cake cases, scissors, extruders.</p> <p><i>At this stage the adults support the children with how to use the tools effectively. They discuss the process.</i></p>	<p><i>At this stage, the children apply the words from the above age bracket and practitioners model the following:</i></p> <p>stretch, pound, press, push, pinch, poke, rub, squish, roll, create, rough, smooth, hard, bumpy, soft, shiny</p>

Ages  
4-5  
Years



Manipulating the dough with an outcome in mind. The process may change in the moment, but the children begin to discuss this.

#### Description

- Manipulating the dough in specific, chosen ways.
- Adding other materials.
- Manipulating the dough with tools.
- Detail within the clay/dough.
- Pushing small items into the clay/dough.
- Using a range of tools to achieve their desired outcome.

This stage is characterized by the children using the dough with a specific purpose. Attention is on the manipulation of the dough and the techniques the children use. They verbalise these techniques within their play.

- Provide children with loose parts that can be added to the playdough/clay.
- Provide the children with dough to choose how they manipulate it.
- Provide the children with recipe cards to make the dough independently.

#### Resources:

Matchsticks, feathers, pasta, twigs, buttons, shells, googly eyes, letter and number stamps. All resources mentioned above too.

*At this stage the adults question the children as to how they are manipulating the dough. Can they use key vocabulary to describe?*

*At this stage, the children apply the words from the above age bracket and practitioners model the following:*

Knead, mould, thread, sculpt, stretch, gritty, rubbery, jagged, twizzle, massage