



Are you looking for a simple sensory-rich activity to do with your child that does not involve too many ingredients? Then try making dish soap putty! All it takes are three simple kitchen ingredients: dish soap, cornstarch and a sprinkle of salt. When you combine all three ingredients, you get putty, a substance that can mimic the qualities of both a solid and a liquid. Playing with putty is a great way for children to develop and strengthen their fine motor skills. The smooth and sticky texture of the putty makes for a great sensory experience as they squeeze it between their fingers.

This activity is made possible thanks to funding from the Jesse and Joan Kupferberg Foundation and The FAR Fund.

Visual Guide: Dish Soap Putty



FIRST, measure 4 tablespoons of cornstarch and put it inside the bowl.



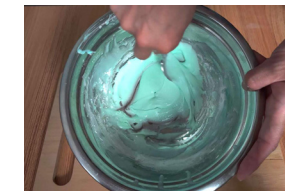
NEXT, measure 2 tablespoons of dish soap and put it inside the bowl with the cornstarch.



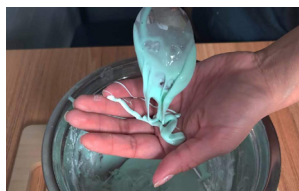
THEN, sprinkle some salt into the bowl.



THEN, mix all the ingredients with a spoon.



THEN, stir until you get a putty consistency. If the putty is too wet, add more cornstarch. If it's too dry, add more dish soap.



THEN, pick up some putty and put it on your hands.



How does it feel?

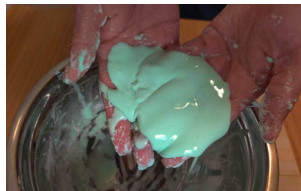
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NEXT, try rolling the putty into a ball using your hands.



LASTLY, squeeze, squish, pull, push and play with your putty!





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Visual Activity Guides

A part of our Autism Access Initiative, NYSCI offers opportunities for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to build a solid foundation of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) thinking skills. We are committed to encouraging children with ASD and their families to explore their science process skills, early mathematical thinking, designing and making through hands-on exposure to new materials, tools and experiences.

Many children are strong visual learners and visual thinkers, especially children with autism. Given this strength, NYSCI has created Visual Activity Guides, visual step-by-step instructions to help engage children in STEAM activities when verbal communication and instructions are difficult. Visual Activity Guides encourage the whole family to participate in playful hands-on activities while promoting a positive learning experience that is clear and engaging.

Use these Visual Activity Guides in a way that best makes sense for your child: printed on paper or displayed on a screen. Your child should be able to see the guide before beginning the activity and the guide should continue to be visible throughout. At first, you may need to physically guide your child (for example, gently guide your child by the shoulder and prompt them to point to each step). Try doing the activity more than once and gradually decrease physical prompts as your child begins to use the visual activity guide more independently.

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