

At York Road nursery we provide access to a variety of types of messy play on a daily basis.

In this time of Covid 19, some things are not possible/safe to have for communal play at nursery. We are giving children individual experiences with careful hand washing and hygiene, but your added activities at home are even more important.

Types of Messy play:

- soapy water
- play dough
- cloud dough
- mud
- potion making with 'dead' flowers, herbs, biodegradable glitter, orange peel.....
- sand – wet, dry, coloured,
- paint and non-toxic wallpaper paste
- Gelli Beads and Gelli Baff *
- slime
- cornflour and water (very interesting! A non Newtonian fluid)
- shaving foam
- clay
- finger painting
- barefoot painting
- sensory walks (barefoot exploration of trays of different textures eg cotton wool, sand paper, bubble wrap, warm water, ice, cooked spaghetti...ewww!)
- paper mache



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*Gelli Beads and Gelli Baff can be bought online, just add water.

Messy Recipes

Cloud Dough

1 cup of [Corn flour](#)
1/2 cup [Hair Conditioner](#)
[Food colouring](#) (optional)



Mix all ingredients together in a bowl.
Knead it with your hands until it makes a smooth dough.

Basic play dough recipe:

Mix together:
2 cups of plain flour
¾ cup salt
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
4 teaspoons cream of tartar
2 cups lukewarm water



Add food colouring, scent (try lavender, orange or cocoa powder) or textures (try sand, seeds, marbles, grit)



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Ingredients:

1 cup/ 250 ml of PVA glue/ or clear glue
1 tsp baking soda
Gel Food colouring, or I prefer 2/ tbsp spoon of acrylic paint (add to desired colour)
1 tbsp Contact Lens solution - must contain boric acid for it to work (can be bought from most chemists)

Method:

Tip the glue into a bowl. Add the bicarbonate of soda and mix into the glue. Add the colour you would like, and mix together thoroughly.
Add the 1 tbsp of lens solution.
Mix with a spoon, until it comes away from the edges and starts to look stringy. It should start to come together quite quickly. Remove from the bowl and start kneading between your hands, at first it may feel a little sticky, give it 20 seconds. And hopefully it should be super stretchy, and ready to use. If it's still a little sticky, add a few more drops of lens solution, a little at a time, still mixing until it comes together.