

PLAYDOUGH IMPRESSIONS

One of our favorite materials at the Conservatory is playdough because of its endless potential for play. We use it to build pretend gardens, make stick bugs, and for this activity we use it to understand and explore natural textures from the world around us. We recommend this activity for children of 18 months and up.



GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY ALLIANCE

SUPPLIES

- Playdough (storebought or DIY, see our website for our recipe)
- Stones and rocks
- Pinecones and seed pods
- Leaves
- Tree bark and twigs
- Flowers and petals

ACCESSIBILITY NOTES

Not everyone will enjoy the sensation of playdough on their hands, especially for those with sensory processing issues. For these learners, we recommend trying the activity wearing a pair of dishwashing gloves or using pinchers to manipulate the different materials. For those with gluten allergies, try making a gluten-free playdough recipe.

PLAYING

With your young ones, explore the way different natural materials interact with playdough. We love comparing the different textures made by flat leaves, wavy flower petals, and bumpy pinecones. Have children press different kinds of rocks and stones into the playdough and pull them out to see what marks they made. For older learners, this can become a fun game to match the playdough texture to the object that made it.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- What textures do you notice?
- Does this make a different texture than you expected?
- How does the object feel when you touch it? How does it look?

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!

Post about your adventures and tag us at @gpconservatory or use the hashtag "#GPCatHome"! This work is supported in part by a grant from PNC Foundation.

