

Celebrate National PLAY-DOH® Day — September 16!



Dear Educator,

As a teacher, you inspire imaginations every day. Now with this FREE educational program, **Inspiring Imaginations**, you can use PLAY-DOH modeling compounds to inspire even more creativity among your students as you help us celebrate National PLAY-DOH Day on September 16.

Developed by the award-winning curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired, in cooperation with Hasbro, Inc., the makers of PLAY-DOH compound, the **Inspiring Imaginations** program provides you with standards-based activities that combine verbal, aural, visual, tactile, and social learning to build foundational skills across the curriculum in language arts, math, science, health, and social studies.

In addition, the program includes an **Inspiring Imaginations** play mat designed to spark creativity on a variety of themes and promote collaboration.

And to complete this hands-on learning experience, you can request a FREE SAMPLE of PLAY-DOH and a FREE PLAY-DOH Launch™ Game by visiting ymiclassroom.com/play-doh-sample. Supplies are limited, so send us your request today!

We would love to see how your students use the **Inspiring Imaginations** program to celebrate **National PLAY-DOH Day**. Upload your photos to ymiclassroom.com/play-doh.

Please let us know your opinion of this program by returning the enclosed reply card or commenting online at ymiclassroom.com/play-doh. We rely on your feedback to continue providing teachers with free resources that make a real difference in the classroom.



Introduce your students to the new PLAY-DOH Launch™ Game. Visit PLAY-DOH.com to learn more.

Target Audience

Preschool, pre-K, and primary grade students and their parents.

Program Objectives

- To foster fine-motor skills and hand-eye coordination through imaginative play
- To build foundational skills in language arts, math, science, health, and social studies through imaginative play
- To extend learning into the home by engaging parent and child in imaginative play

Program Components

- This one-page teacher's guide
- Three reproducible student activity sheets
- An online activity guide with two additional student activity sheets, available at ymiclassroom.com/play-doh
- A seasonal calendar poster for your classroom
- An **Inspiring Imaginations** PLAY-DOH play mat
- Free sample of PLAY-DOH compound and a free PLAY-DOH Launch™ Game available by request at ymiclassroom.com/play-doh-sample (while supplies last)
- A reply card for your comments. You can also comment through the online feedback form at ymiclassroom.com/play-doh.

How to Use this Program

- Photocopy the teacher's guide and activity sheets before displaying the poster in your classroom.
- Use the activity sheets to supplement your lesson plans in language arts, math, science, health, and social studies.
- Use the poster to spark daily discussion about changing weather conditions, seasonal pastimes, and upcoming events, or use images on the poster for color identification, vocabulary building, and counting activities throughout the year.
- Use the play mat on a table or the floor as a "creation station" where students can be inspired to shape their creative ideas with PLAY-DOH compound. For additional play mat activity suggestions, download the online activity guide at ymiclassroom.com/play-doh.

National PLAY-DOH Day — Create & Celebrate!

Plan now to make **National PLAY-DOH Day**,

September 16, a special occasion in your classroom, and plan to share the fun by uploading photos of your students and their PLAY-DOH creations to ymiclassroom.com/play-doh.



Request a free sample of PLAY-DOH compound and a free PLAY-DOH Launch™ Game at ymiclassroom.com/play-doh-sample.

Activity 1 • Use Your Imagination

This language arts activity introduces opposite-word pairs by engaging students in storytelling. For each illustration, use the caption to help students identify the opposites and to prompt storytelling. Then have students recreate each picture using PLAY-DOH and create additional PLAY-DOH items to tell their stories. Extend the activity by having students make their own PLAY-DOH creations to illustrate additional opposite-word pairs: wide/narrow, thick/thin, curved/straight, over/under, inside/outside, etc.

Activity 2 • Inspiring Imaginations for Math

For this pattern-recognition activity, have students name the shapes in each row and then "guess" which shape comes next. You can also assign the shapes to different students and have them call out their shape names to dramatize the patterning. Then have students use PLAY-DOH to recreate each pattern and continue it. (Students can cut out PLAY-DOH triangles and squares with a straight edge and make PLAY-DOH circles with a bottle cap.) Finally, have students use their PLAY-DOH shapes to create their own pattern in the space provided. Extend the activity by introducing additional shapes and by using color instead of shape as a patterning factor, or by adding color to shape as a second patterning factor.

Activity 3 • Be Inspired by the Seasons

This science activity complements the **Inspiring Imaginations** seasonal calendar poster by introducing students to signs of the four seasons. For each illustration, have students name the item and match it to the appropriate season, then write the name of that season below the picture. Use the poster as a prompt to have students suggest additional signs of each season, and to talk about the characteristic weather conditions of each season, how these conditions correspond to nature's growth cycle, and how they influence human behavior. Finally, have students use PLAY-DOH compound to shape three-dimensional versions of the items on the activity sheet or the poster, and gather these creations together to make four seasonal scenes. Extend the activity by inviting students to make up stories for each season based on their PLAY-DOH creations and their favorite pastimes during that time of the year.

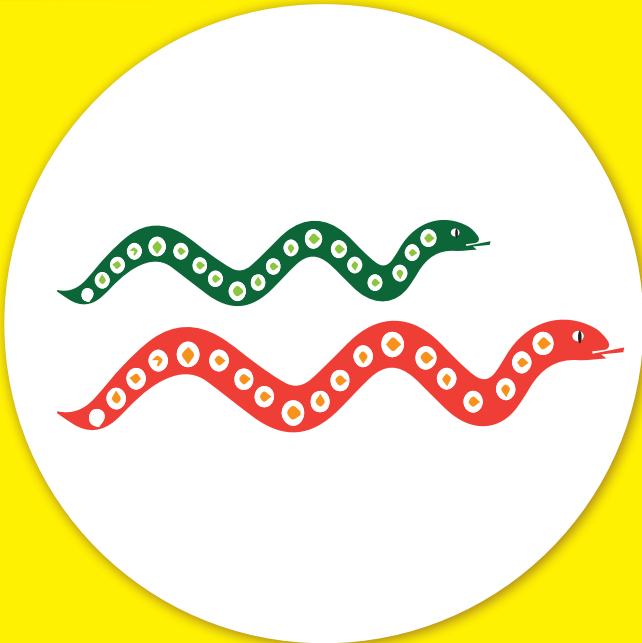


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Use Your Imagination



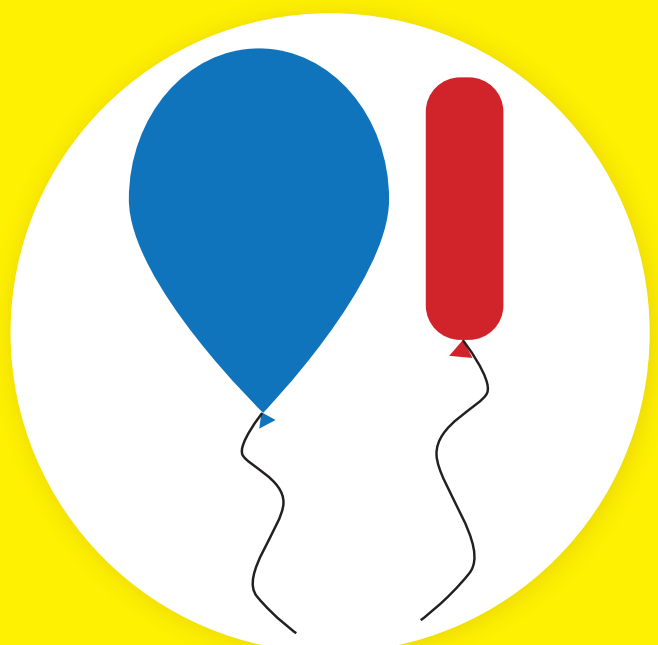
Long snake. Short snake.
Where are they going?



Tall tree. Short tree.
Where are they growing?



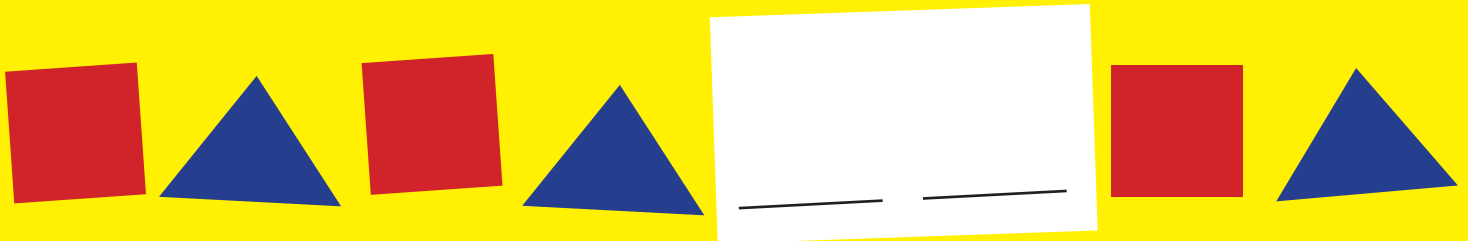
Big house. Little house.
Who lives inside?



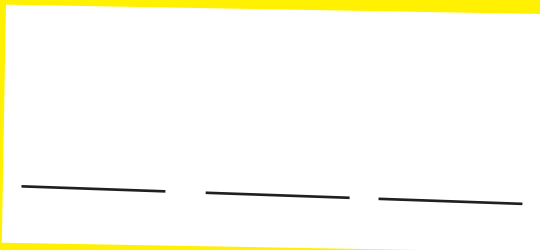
Large balloon. Small balloon.
Which one is wide?



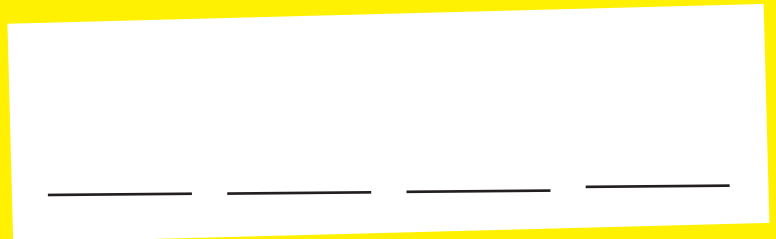
Inspiring Minds for Math



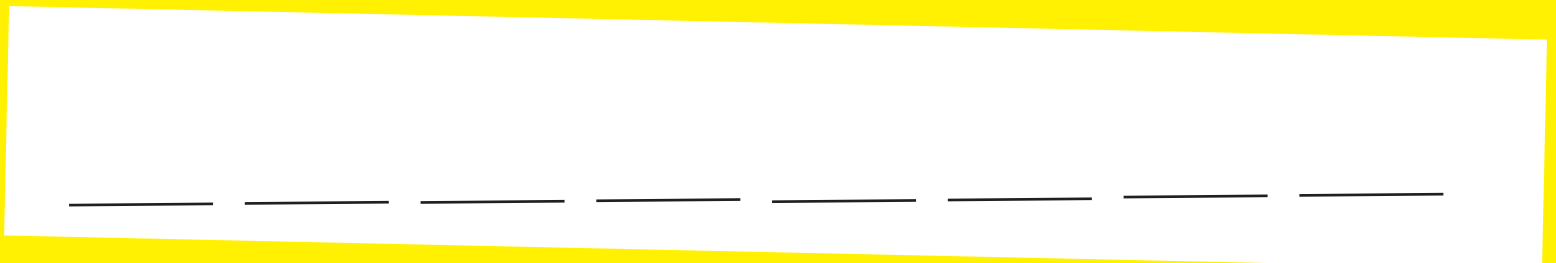
What is missing?



What comes before?



What comes after?



Create your own pattern!



Be Inspired by the Seasons





What do you see in *Spring?* *Summer?* *Fall?* *Winter?*





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Online Activity Guide

Activity sheets 4 and 5 can be found at the end of these instructions.

Activity 4 • Play Time!

Use this game activity to build hand/eye coordination, fine motor skills, and math skills. Pair students and have them use PLAY-DOH to make three marble-size balls each. Then show students how to place a ball in one of the rings and roll or flick it toward the center target. If the ball stops in the target, the student earns the number of points shown in the ring. Provide each pair of students with a separate sheet of paper on which to keep score. Then let the fun begin! Encourage students to continue the game at home with a parent. And for an added challenge, they can try the new PLAY-DOH Launch™ Game.

Activity 5 • Inspiring Celebrations

Use this social studies activity to celebrate students' birthdays. Students shape a PLAY-DOH compound creation to place inside the gift box space, color the border, and write their birthday friend's name and their own name on the blank lines. Have students present their PLAY-DOH birthday cards to their classmate individually, describing their creation and why they thought their classmate would like it. If you take photos, you can share the event by visiting ymiclassroom.com/play-doh to upload your pictures. Extend this activity by having students use PLAY-DOH compound to inspire items for a pretend birthday party — a cake with candles, cookies, candy, ice cream, etc. Adapt this activity for special occasions, such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, the Fourth of July (our nation's birthday), and **National PLAY-DOH Day on September 16.**

Celebrate National PLAY-DOH Day — September 16!

PLAY-DOH has been inspiring imaginations for years! Show us how you celebrated the day. Visit ymiclassroom.com/play-doh to upload your pictures.



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Inspiring Imaginations Play Mat

Suggested Activities

Use these ideas to turn your **Inspiring Imaginations** play mat into a “creation station” for hands-on learning.

Colors, Shapes, and Counting

- Ask students to identify the different colors they see on the mat. Write the color names on a large pad of paper. Then, color by color, have students look around the room to find examples of each color.
- Have students identify the colors in one panel, then look for those colors in other panels. Ask, “How many PLAY-DOH creations include the color blue?” Have them count. Then write the number on a large pad of paper. Once all of the colors have been identified and counted, ask, “What is the highest number — what color do we see the most on the mat? What is the lowest number — what color do we see the least on the mat?”
- Ask children to find the color yellow on the mat. Then ask which students are wearing yellow today. Continue with the rest of the colors on the mat.
- Have students find triangles on the mat. Continue with squares, circles, rectangles, etc. Then ask students to find examples of each shape in the classroom.

Themes

Note: You can find step-by-step picture directions for making all the creations shown on the play mat, and directions for many other PLAY-DOH creations, at www.hasbro.com/playdoh/en_US/creations.cfm.

Let's celebrate! Help students match the pictures in the panel with their holidays/special occasions (jack-o-lantern: Halloween; turkey: Thanksgiving; hearts: Valentine's Day; balloon: birthday). Help students recreate these items using PLAY-DOH compound, then have them shape other holiday/special occasion items.

Let's learn about animals!

Have students identify the animals in this play space and talk about where each animal lives, what it eats, etc. Help students recreate the animals using PLAY-DOH, then have them create animals that live in these habitats (i.e., arctic, ocean, forest) and other habitats (e.g., jungle, desert, wetlands). On another day, have students use PLAY-DOH to create sculptures of their pets or pets they would like to have.

Let's explore! Have students identify the smartphone and laptop in this play space, then talk about how people use these technologies. Expand this discussion to include other technologies — televisions, video games, tablet computers, GPS, etc. — and have students create these technology items using PLAY-DOH. Let students explain how the items they have created work and how they would use them. Use the robot to encourage students to create their own futuristic technology items using PLAY-DOH. Use the dinosaur in the panel to talk about science topics we can explore using technologies like smartphones and laptops. If possible, show students illustrations of real dinosaurs, and have them create a dinosaur diorama using PLAY-DOH.

Let's learn about numbers! Have students count the number of balls in each group. Then have them make their own PLAY-DOH creations and arrange them in groups of 1, 2, 3, and 4 components. Ask students to move groups together and see if they can count how many are now in each group. Then talk about which groups have the most creations and which have the least.

Let's go to school! Have students identify the school items in this play space and talk about how they use (or will use) each one at school, then have students recreate these items using PLAY-DOH. Ask students to shape other school items using PLAY-DOH — crayons, markers, erasers, a chalkboard, etc. — and explain how each one helps us learn at school.

Let's go outside! Help students match the pictures in this play space with their seasons and talk about what happens during each season — weather conditions, the natural cycle, what people do for fun during each season. Use this discussion to generate ideas for other signs of each season. Then have students use PLAY-DOH to create their own set of four seasonal items. Have students describe the items they have made and why they chose them.





Activity 4: Reproducible Master

Play Time!



Can you put a PLAY-DOH ball on the target?



1
2
3



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Test your skills with the new PLAY-DOH Launch™ Game! Visit PLAY-DOH.com to learn more.

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Inspiring Celebrations

A yellow Play-Doh character with a large smile and a single eye is holding a small gift box. The gift box is wrapped in purple paper with a pink ribbon and a pink bow. The gift box is placed on a small white platform. The background is a bright yellow color. A large, white, irregularly shaped area with a blue border and a dashed line inside is in the center, intended for a drawing. The text "Put your gift here." is written in blue inside this area. The Play-Doh logo is visible in the bottom left corner.

Put your gift here.

To _____
From _____



Find more birthday shapes at PLAY-DOH.com.
Celebrate National PLAY-DOH Day — September 16!



Celebrate National PLAY-DOH® Day — September 16!



Dear Parents,

There's no better way to improve foundational skills in math, science, and language arts than through imaginative play. So celebrate your child's creativity and love of learning on **National PLAY-DOH Day, September 16** — with fun, skill-based play.

Here are some great ideas:

Inspiring Imaginations with Colors, Shapes, and Counting



- Have your child form balls from different colors of PLAY-DOH compound and sort them into piles of all one color. Then have them count the number in each pile. Talk about which pile has more balls than another. Which pile has the most balls? Which has the fewest?
- Take the balls and form them into a circle, a square, and a triangle. Ask your child what shape you're making. Put another ball inside each shape and talk about the concept of *inside* and *outside*.
- Ask your child what other things come in those shapes. Then combine the shapes to make objects —for example, a house out of a triangle and a square, a tree out of a triangle and a rectangle, and an ice cream cone out of a triangle and a circle.

Inspiring Science and Discovery

- Talk about the seasons, with particular focus on the fall. Then have your child make a PLAY-DOH tree with different color leaves.
- Talk about the holidays in the fall — Halloween and Thanksgiving. Together with your child, make PLAY-DOH pumpkins, turkeys, and other holiday signs of the season.
- Ask your child what the weather is like in the other seasons of the year — whether it's hot, or windy, or snowy. Then make PLAY-DOH creations that reflect those weather conditions.



Inspiring Animals



- All children love animals. Here's a chance to talk about and create PLAY-DOH animals you might find in a house, on a farm, or in the jungle.
- Some animals come in many colors, others in just one. Use PLAY-DOH compound to create animals in their usual color and then let your children show their creativity by making pink cows or green dogs or any color animal they'd like.
- Stimulate your children's imagination by asking them to create an imaginary animal that they would like for a pet.

These are just a few of the creative ideas you can use to help inspire your child's imagination, fine-motor skills, and eye-hand coordination. Go to www.play-doh.com to find a wide variety of facts, tips, videos, and even an online community to help further inspire your child's creative mind.





INSPIRING IMAGINATIONS

All Year Round

FALL



September

National
Play-Doh Day!



October



November

WINTER



December



January



Happy
Valentine's
Day!

February



SPRING



March



April



Happy
Mother's
Day!



May

SUMMER



June



July



August



Celebrate
July 4th!

