



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.