

Alverno Early Learning Center

September 2017

National Playdough Day! Is September 16

Homemade playdough is far superior to what you can purchase. Follow one of the recipes below and have your child join you in making playdough at home.



Kool-Aid No-Cook Playdough

- 1 ¼ cups flour
- ¼ cup salt
- 1-2 packets of unsweetened Kool-Aid, (for color and nice smell!)
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 ½ Tbsp. vegetable oil

Directions:

1. Mix flour, salt, and kool-aid powder in a bowl.
2. Add boiling water and oil. Stir until cool enough to touch.
3. Knead dough with hands for about 5 minutes.
4. Store in airtight container or Ziploc bag when not in use.

Standard No-Cook Playdough

- 1 cup flour
- ¼ cup salt
- 1 Tbsp. cream of tartar
- ¾ cup boiling water
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil/food color (optional)

Directions:

1. Mix the flour, salt, and cream of tartar in a large mixing bowl.
2. Stir in boiling water, food color, and oil.
3. Stir continuously until slightly cool.
4. Knead dough vigorously with hands for a few minutes until all the stickiness is absorbed (you can add more flour if it's needed).
5. Store in airtight container or Ziploc bag when not in use.

Upcoming Events

Week of September 25: Read a Book Week with Parents

Week of October 16: Harvest Week

Thursday, November 19: Stone Soup Lunch with Parents

Upcoming Center Closings

Thanksgiving Break

Closed on November 23 - 24

December Break

Closed beginning December 20

Return on January 2, 2018

Our Mission

Alverno Early Learning Center exists to promote educational and personal development of every child and staff member who enters our doors. We will respect every child, parent and co-worker by keeping the lines of communication open and confidentiality a priority.

Our Philosophy

Alverno Early Learning Center believes in high quality care and education for each child. Our program is based on the philosophy that:

- Children grow and develop through active exploration in a warm and nurturing environment.
- We believe in the uniqueness of each child and strive to meet the individual needs of each child.
- We provide a variety of educational experiences that place emphasis on child involvement and decision-making.
- Activities are focused to enhance social, emotional, cognitive and language development.

Hours:

Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Phone:

(414) 382-6076

Administration:

Barb Groshek—Manager

Kathy Moosavi—Program Coordinator

Serving Alverno College since 1969!

The Potential of Playdough



The malleable properties of playdough make it appealing for exploration and creativity while at the same time quietly building up vital fine motor strength. Developing the many small finger and hand muscles is an important prerequisite for writing. Due to a lack of play opportunities, too many kids are arriving at school without the fine motor dexterity needed to control a pencil.

Presented by itself, playdough can be squashed, rolled, flattened, poked, or creatively molded. Add another element to it, like buttons, and the list of possibilities expands exponentially! Each different action aids a different aspect of fine motor development, not to mention hand-eye coordination and concentration. The kitchen table makes a wonderful play space.

By itself, playdough can be squeezed, rolled, pinched, molded, or flattened—using all the tiny hand and finger muscles.

Grasping, pushing, and rolling with a rolling pin are great ways to strengthen both hand and forearm muscles. Once the dough is flattened, bring on the cookie cutters!

Playdough offers unbeatable practice for scissor skills. Roll “snakes” and then cut them into pieces. Practice life skills like how to use forks and knives! Roll a sausage and cut it into bite sized pieces.

Use kitchen utensils to make neat patterns. If a fork looks fun, imagine what a potato masher could do! Add loose parts like buttons, shells, pebbles, or popsicle sticks to invite new play possibilities. Provide some dishes, and you’ll soon have a meal ready to be served or a sweet shop full of goodies to enjoy.

From: *Community Playthings*, May 2016

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<https://www.alverno.edu/academics/resourcesforstudents/earlylearningcenter/newsletters.php>