



Virtual Purple Museum

Squishy and Moldable Cloud Dough

Making cloud dough is a sensory activity and a wonderful way to help calm children who are anxious or overstimulated.

Materials:

- o 2 cups of flour
- o 1/4 cup of vegetable oil (optional: lavender oil or baby oil)
- o Bowl or large bin
- o Optional: Food coloring, cocoa powder, play tools (plastic animals, toy car, play dough accessories, kitchen tools, etc.)

Try it!

1. **Scoop and pour the flour** into the center of a bowl.
2. **Create a crater** in the middle of the flour.
3. **Pour the oil** into the crater.
4. **Gently mix** it all together.
5. **Learn about the properties of the dough** as it is, or add play dough accessories, spoons, or measuring cups to make small structures, hills, or pretend cupcakes.
6. For color dough (optional): squish couple food color drops into a mixture and mix well.
7. For cocoa dough (optional): pour cocoa powder into the flour and oil then mix well.

Guiding Questions:

- How does it feel when you let the cloud dough fall through your fingers?
- How does it feel when you squeeze it in your hands?
- What shape did you make with your dough?

Learning Behind the Play:

- Encourages the development of fine motor skills.
- Supports self-discovery, social and emotional development.
- Encourages language skills development.

Take It Further:

Homemade moon sand is another medium that is also soft, yet moldable. You and your child can investigate the similarities and differences between the textures of moon sand and cloud dough. Homemade Moon Sand Recipe: mix together 6 cups of play sand with 3 cups of cornstarch. Slowly add 1 cup of water and mix thoroughly. If sand becomes too dry, spray a little bit of water to “revive it.” Be careful not to add too much or it will become runny!