

Clay Activity For Children Aged 6 – 8 years

<p>Activity Type: Imprints of natural materials, using clay.</p>	<p>Appropriate Age Group: 6 – 8 years</p>
<p>Activity Summary: The activity is to create an imprint of natural materials in clay.</p>	
<p>Materials needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flat natural materials with patterns on them (leaves, shells, twigs) - A large click zip bag - Clay (1 kilo for 10 kids) - Newspaper (to cover table) - Art smocks (1 per child) - Rolling pins (1 per child) - Baking paper (1 roll) - Baking trays (30cm x 30cm, 1 tray = 6 children) - 1 Oven at 110 degrees 	<p>Time: 15-30 minutes to collect materials. 30 minutes to make imprint. 30 minutes in oven or 2 – 3 days to harden at room temperature.</p> <p>Environment: Indoors, at a small table with chairs</p> <p>How many children can partake in this activity at a time? As many kids as you wish.</p> <p>Mess Factor: 8/10</p>
<p>What you need to prepare before the activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get clay and rolling pins. - Cut the baking paper 10cm x 10cm (1 per child) - Place newspaper over the table (enough to cover the entire table). - 	
<p>Instructions for the activity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take the children outside to collect a range of natural materials. 2. Ask them to collect interesting natural materials and once found put them in the click zip bag, which is held by the teacher. 3. Once there is a range of materials, go back inside and spread them out in the middle of the table. 4. Instruct the children to put an art smock on, and then to sit down at the table. 5. Place a small bit of clay in front of each child (clay size = golf ball size). 6. Instruct the students to roll the clay into a ball. 7. Once they have rolled the clay into the ball, instruct them to get the rolling pin and flatten the clay. 8. Tell each child to get one natural material from the middle of the table and place it in the middle of the clay. 9. Once the natural material is in the clay, get the rolling pin and press the material into the clay. 10. Then once the children think they have made an imprint, peel the natural material off slowly. 11. Place children’s clay on a small piece of baking paper and write their name on it. 12. Once each child has finished, place the tray in the oven to harden (this can be done at home or in the staff room later on during the day). The oven should go on for a maximum of 30 minutes at 110 degrees. If you do not wish to use an oven, let them sit at room temperature for a few days. 13. Once hardened, let the clay cool down and give to each child to take home. 14. 	
<p>Things to think about when assessing the child’s work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can they follow the instructions provided for them? - Focus on their concentration. Do they get distracted easily? Did they not get distracted at all? - Throughout this activity, was the child guided the whole time on what to do or were they independent and working on their own? - Did they use their time wisely and appropriately or did they rush the activity? - What skills were used? 	
<p>Linking the activity to the AusVELS document:</p> <p>As all art activities involve “imagination and experimentation” (ACARA, 2013, p.3), it is important for children that the art activities provided in class further enhance their cognitive development as well as their coordination skills. When assessing the child focus on their exploration and investigation of a</p>	

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variety of techniques, skills use and processes.

This clay activity is a great activity to provide for children as it relates to the AusVELS level 1 and level 2 sections, which is ‘creating and making’ and level 2. Furthermore these sections allow children to become familiar with “two-dimensional, three-dimensional and four-dimensional art” (ACARA, 2011, p.16). This is because they are using clay, which encourages them to experiment and explore by using a range of tools, techniques and processes.

Some open-ended question you can ask:

- What can you tell me about your creation/sculpture?
- What made you make and create this?
- How did you get the idea for this?
- Have you seen this object before? Where?
- What would you call your sculpture? Why?
- What do you like about your sculpture? Why?
- What don't you like about your sculpture? Why?

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Rubric for Assessing the child:

Assessment Sheet						
	Follow Instructions	Concentration and Motivation	Independence	Time	Creativity	Behaviour
Excellent	They can understand and follow instructions immediately without being repeated.	The child is highly interested, motivated and focused on the task at hand, without being distracted.	The child completed the activity with no guidance from the teacher.	The child used their time wisely and didn't rush to complete the activity.	The child explored and experimented thoroughly with the materials provided, to create a creative piece of art.	The child behaved extremely well throughout this activity.
Very Good	They can understand and follow instructions after instructions are repeated once or twice.	The child is interested, motivated and focused on the task at hand, but gets distracted once or twice.	The child completed the activity with minimal guidance from the teacher.	The child used their time well and rushed a little bit, to complete the activity.	The child explored and experimented reasonably with the materials provided, to create a creative piece of art.	The child behaved reasonably well throughout this activity.
Good	May have some trouble understanding and following instructions, but still completes the task the best they can.	The child wasn't that interested, motivated or focused on the task at hand, therefore gets distracted frequently.	The child completed the activity with a large amount of guidance from the teacher.	The child rushed to complete the activity.	The child explored and experimented minimally with the materials provided, to create a creative piece of art.	The child misbehaved throughout the activity.
Further Notes:						