

**Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.**

## Activity: Play dough rainbow fusion

**This fun and creative colour mixing activity introduces children to the science of basic colours while enhancing language development.**

### Learning aims

- Colour recognition and names
- Combine primary colours (red, yellow, blue) to produce secondary colours (green, purple, orange) and discuss their observations
- Encourage sensory exploration
- Promote creativity and self-expression.



### Resources

- Playdough in primary colours (red, blue, yellow)
- Mixing area – tray, table with protective cloth etc
- Child safe knives/lolly sticks (optional)
- Colour reference chart/cards (optional)
- Image of a rainbow.

### Activity outline

1. Gather the children and prompt them to share their existing knowledge of colours, such as finding out their favourite colours or the colours of their bedroom. Find out if anyone has experience of mixing colours. This exchange is designed to ignite curiosity in preparation for the activity
2. Use the image of a rainbow to establish the children's knowledge of colour recognition and colour names
3. Establish which are the primary colours and ask the children to choose one small ball of each colour (red,

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blue, yellow). Support those children who are not yet secure in their knowledge of the primary colours

4. Model mixing two of the colours together to demonstrate the change
5. Encourage the children to experiment with mixing the playdough primary colours to create new colours i.e. red+blue = purple, blue+yellow = green, red+yellow = orange
6. Provide time to experiment, problem solve and think critically about what they are doing
7. Observe and discuss the changes as they mix. Can they predict what colour will be produced when they mix two certain colours? Ask open-ended questions such as, "Why did you choose those colours?", "What happened when ...?" etc
8. Discuss the names of the new colours they have made. Look at an image of a rainbow, discuss which colours of the rainbow they have made and ask how they think they would make the other colours e.g. indigo.

## Extension ideas

- Make a play dough rainbow
- Use different mediums to colour mix e.g. paint, coloured water, coloured cellophane

## NDNA products to support you with this activity

- [Expressive arts and design](#) – face to face training
- [Little scientists leading the way](#) – online training