

# Team games: Play clay



45 mins



**C**hildren are introduced to the concept and skills of co-operative learning. They work in teams of three to make and use playdough.



## At a glance

Student book pages 1–3

- Introduce and explain team skills and team jobs.
- Introduce the team investigation.
- Form teams and allocate jobs.
- Children carry out the team investigation.
- Discuss questions in the student book.



## Lesson outcome

**Children are aware of the skills that will help them to work in teams.**

They show their awareness by:

- moving into their teams quickly and quietly;
- speaking softly;
- staying with their teams;
- taking turns; and
- doing their jobs.



## Equipment and preparation

**For the class** team skills chart (BLM 3.1)  
team jobs chart (BLM 3.2)

### Team investigation

**For the class** water, for washing hands

**For each team** newspaper, to cover work area  
1 container (eg, ice-cream) or bowl holding:  
    1/2 cup of plain flour  
    1/4 cup of cooking salt  
    2 teaspoons of cream of tartar  
2 teaspoons of vegetable oil (added by you)  
1/3 cup of hot water (added by you)  
a few drops of food colouring (optional)  
1 stirring spoon  
job badges for director, manager and speaker

*Managers will find it easier to collect the equipment if you put the items for each team into a separate container.*

**Preparation** Measure the dry ingredients and place them in a container for each team.

Have some extra flour available in case the consistency of the dough is too sticky.

If food colouring is used, it can be added to the hot water.

This lesson is likely to be messy. Try to avoid carpeted areas and allow time for cleaning up.

If possible, arrange for other adults or older children to help with this lesson.

**BLMs** Make one copy each of 3.1 and 3.2.



## Teaching strategies

**1** Introduce and explain the team skills chart and team jobs chart.

*If children are using **Primary Investigations** for the first time, provide them with a full explanation of team skills and team jobs. Emphasise that each team member will contribute to the team investigations and that the team jobs will be rotated during the year.*

**2** Show the children the equipment table and discuss its use. Explain that this is where team managers will collect and return the equipment.

*Make sure children understand that only the manager of each team collects or returns equipment from the equipment table. Remind children to wear their job badges. This makes it easier for you to identify which job each child should be doing—and easier for the children to remember what they and their team members should be doing.*

- 3 Introduce the team investigation: *How can we work together to make some play clay?*



Form teams and allocate jobs.  
Ask managers to collect team equipment.

- 4 Ask children to carry out steps 1 to 6 in the student book. While teams are carrying out the investigation, ask questions such as:

**How can you share the job of making the play clay?**

**How can your team share the play clay equally?**

**What do you think the mixture will feel like when it is ready to use?**

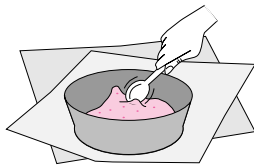
*The water for the playdough needs to be very hot in order to combine the ingredients into a smooth, pliable dough without the need for further cooking.*

*Teams can stir the ingredients while you go around the room adding the oil and hot water.*

*Make sure step 4 is completed before the children start kneading. (Children may need help with the term 'knead'.)*

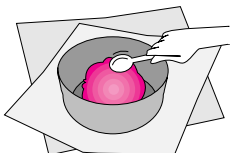
**Step 1** Cover your work area with sheets of newspaper. Stir the dry ingredients in the bowl to make sure they are well mixed.

**Step 2** Wait for your teacher to pour in the oil and hot water.

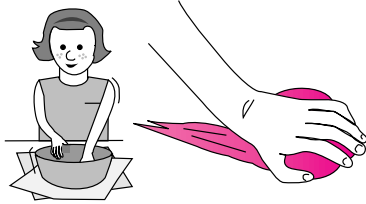


**Step 3** Take turns to stir the mixture. Stir carefully so that you don't splash the hot water onto your team mates.

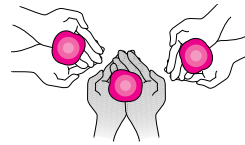
**Step 4** Keep stirring the mixture until it comes away from the sides of the bowl and forms the shape of a ball.



**Step 5** Knead the ball of clay until it is smooth and soft.



**Step 6** Divide the clay into three equal pieces, one for each team member.



**5** Ask the children to use their play clay to create a variety of different shapes.

*For example, the thinnest shape, the longest shape, a cube, the tallest self-supporting shape, a bridge and so on.*

**6** After completing the activity, discuss the questions in the student book:

- 1** How did the mixture change when you stirred in the hot water?
- 2** What shapes did you make?
- 3** Was it easy or hard to change the play clay into different shapes?
- 4** Did your team work well together?  
Did you remember to practise all the team skills?



## Extensions

Children copy out and illustrate the play clay recipe to take home.

Children use the play clay to make models for a display. They design a poster advertising the display and promoting the good things about play clay. 🌀