

# Taos agus Cré Dough and Clay

## Aiseanna/Resources

Ensure that all materials are safe and appropriate. Draw up a policy about which food products can be used in the area. Basic resources should include:

### Dough

- In various colours including natural
- With added textures such as sequins, rice or glitter
- With added smells such as mint or lavender
- Made with different recipes- cooked or uncooked, with plain or wholemeal flour
- Presented warm or chilled
- Made with the children as an activity

### Clay

- Red and grey (these have different qualities)
- Wet or damp
- Self-hardening

### Other malleable experiences

- Cornflour mixed with water
- Sand mousse (sand mixed with bubble bath mixture)
- Peat/potting compost
- Bark chips/wood shavings
- Gravel
- Pasta shapes or spaghetti(cooked or raw)
- Salt including crystals or coloured
- Lentils, dried peas, rice
- Plasticine
- Pure soap flakes mixed with warm water to form gel-like texture

### Resources to use with materials

- Rolling pins and cutters and wooden mallets
- Place mats
- Wooden lollipop sticks and straws
- Chocolate boxes and egg cartons
- Bun trays and bun papers
- Tea set, hob or cooker
- Natural objects such as shells, pine cones, twigs and stones
- Flower pots, garlic press, tongs, hand mincer, potato masher
- Sieves and strainer, icing tools
- Where appropriate add small world animals, people etc



## Foghlaim/learning

Clay and dough (malleable play area) should always be available to children as it offers them opportunities for children to:

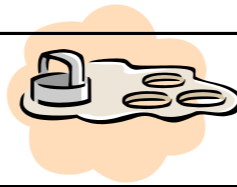
- \* Develop confidence and autonomy by selecting resources themselves and using them independently
- \* Use tools which will help to develop skills needed for later mark-making and writing
- \* Be involved in practical activities which reinforce the concepts of size and measures
- \* Develop their knowledge and understanding of the world as they experiment with a variety of materials and tools
- \* Become involved in imaginative play and role play
- \* Develop their physical skills as they use assorted tools with increasing confidence and expertise



## Suíomh/Location

If possible provide a double table so that children have the space to work together.

- If possible locate the clay and dough near the creative area so children can access resources from both areas.
- Locate in area with floor covering that can be easily cleaned and mopped if wet
- Provide storage space for resources nearby



## Pleanáil/Planning

Plan for children to have:

- ♦ Daily access to the clay and dough area
- ♦ Opportunities to explore a wide variety of materials and use them in different ways
- ♦ Open-ended creative and imaginative opportunities with the emphasis on process rather than product
- ♦ Opportunities to be involved in adult initiated activities which introduce the children to new skills such as rolling and cutting shapes from dough
- ♦ Time to develop and refine skills and investigate diverse materials and tools independently and in their own way.

Monitor the use of the play and dough area and use observations to inform future planning e.g. children may be emptying and filling flower pots with compost and notice it falling through the hole add gravel and pebbles to next session

## Tacaíocht foghlama/ supporting learning

Naíscoil staff should:

- Create an area that is exciting and interesting and stimulates children's natural curiosity
- Ensure that children have access to a range of diverse experiences but can also spend time revisiting familiar activities which make them feel secure such as playing with dough
- Ensure that the area is well maintained, clean and safe
- Plan to spend time in the area observing children and where appropriate enhancing and extending their learning
- Encourage children to explore materials and use tools with increasing confidence and expertise
- Introduce and reinforce language which is specific to this area of learning

## Eispéireas agus gníomhaíochtaí/ experiences and activities

The Taos and Cré should be available at every session. Naíscoil staff should plan activities that extend children's knowledge & understanding, skills and attitudes:

- Prepare two balls of dough one scented and the other with different textures. Encourage the children to discuss similarities and differences
- Make clay fun! Here's an activity for outdoors or for a well protected area indoors. Place balls of clay on trays. Ask the children to add drops of water using droppers as the clay gets wetter encourage the children to flatten the clay with mallets and to remould the clay. Can be noisy and messy but allows the children to experience the changing consistency of the material as water is added.
- Mix water and cornflour until it reaches a consistency that looks solid and shiny but sticks to fingers and tools and will drip off slowly. Add mark-making tools, small containers and spoons. Encourage the children to observe what happens and transfer the mixture from one container to another using hands and spoons.
- Ensure staff understand the learning opportunities available in the Taos and Cré so that they can articulate them to parents. Set up a display area showing the children at work in the Taos and Cré area with photographs and detailing the learning which occurs in this area to allow parents to share in their child's learning.

## Teanga/language

Introduce, use and reinforce the specific language of learning in the Taos And Cré area:

fliuch tirim súigh isteach sín scaip uigeacht gairbhéal pasta crann fuinte lián mús lintile gránphlúr máillead sil criathar miontóir

wet dry absorb stretch scatter texture gravel pasta rolling pin trowel mousse lentil cornflour mallet drip sieve mincer

