



Using Plasticine



Don't be scared to let your child mix the colours of their plasticine. It's a fantastic way to explore how colour can be changed and the squeezing and rolling of the colours together is brilliant for developing those hand and finger muscles. Your child may like to predict what will happen when they mix different colours together.

Using plasticine to create scenes and use alongside other toys is great fun. Children can use their imagination to make backgrounds. They may use it to tell you stories about what is happening in their play.



Why stop at backgrounds or scenes, they may like to use the plasticine to create characters or animals to support their play.

Using plasticine to experiment with numbers, letters and shapes is a great way to get those fingers working too. Your child may only know or recognise a few numbers or letters at this stage, for example their age or letters in their name.



Perhaps your child would like to experiment with different tools to create marks in their plasticine. Toys often leave interesting patterns, as do everyday items such as forks.

Top tip: before giving your child the blocks of plasticine, use scissors to cut them into smaller cubes to make it easier for your child to use and shape.



Exploring Pom Poms



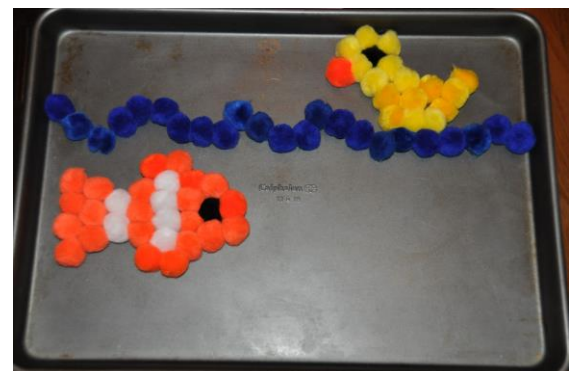
Perhaps your child would like to sort their pom poms? Maybe by colour or size? They could use their hands to hold the pom poms, or even other tools such as tweezers or chopsticks.

Maybe your child would like to create their own patterns. They may wish to start with just two colours, or they may go for a more complicated one. Join in by sitting next to your child and create your own patterns. It's great to talk about what you are doing and listen to what your child notices.



Pom poms can be fun to use when exploring numbers too. Your child may enjoy counting them, or putting them into piles. Perhaps they notice which piles have the most pom poms in.

Your child may wish to show their interests by creating their own pictures. Maybe an underwater scene, or a vehicle. How will they use the different colours?



Using a baking tray or something similar is a great way to keep the pom poms from rolling away. Don't forget to take pictures of their creations.



What shapes can your child make using the pom poms. They may wish to draw the shapes first, or go straight into making them. Will they make shapes with curved or straight sides? How will they make the corners?

Using Numicon

Numicon can be so fun to explore at home. It can easily be incorporated with other items in the learning pack:



When playing with numicon, your child may comment on the shape, colour or perhaps the number of holes it has. Follow their lead and engage in the conversation with them. "I wonder what happens when...." is a great way to encourage your child to think more deeply.

You may have other things at home that can complement the numicon:



It's fun to draw around and paint with too, making shapes, pictures and again looking at the values of different pieces:



Ideas for exploring Rainbow Rice



Pour your rainbow rice onto a tray or into a container and let your child explore. How does the rice feel in their hands? What noise does it make as they pour it?

Add kitchen utensils such as funnels, measuring cups, spoons and chopsticks. Your child can experiment with the different equipment, filling and emptying.

Let them lead the way.



Perhaps your child would like to investigate how they could use the rice alongside a muffin tray, using a spoon or other utensils.

They may pretend to make cakes, or make observations about the different colours they are choosing to put in each section. Perhaps they will fill all sections equally, or maybe they will choose specific places to spoon their rice.

Join in with your child and see

what direction they take their learning.



Adding natural objects or some of your children's toys to the rainbow rice is a wonderful way to enhance the play. Your child may decide to create their own scenes or pictures that they then incorporate into their small world play.



Using your rice to make sensory bottles or musical shakers is such fun learning too. Let your child pour the rice into the bottle. Perhaps they will experiment with how much they put in different bottles. These might inspire them to make other shakers or sensory bottles.

Please remember that these are suggestions and should your child wish to explore in other ways, this is fantastic. Have fun!