DIY SILLY PUTTY

HOW CAN I MAKE MY OWN SILLY PUTTY?

Materials:
Dish soap
Cornstarch
Food coloring (optional)

Put 2 tablespoons of corn starch into a bowl.
> ***Note: you can double the recipe easily as long as you keep the proportions the same.***

Add 1.5 tablespoons of dish soap.
> ***(Optional: add food coloring.)***

Stir and mix!
> ***Start with a spoon and then use your hands when the mixture is solid enough!***

WHAT ARE THE DEVELOPMENTAL BENEFITS OF SILLY PUTTY?

Putty is a great occupational therapy tool to have in your play rotation!

No matter how your child(ren) play with the putty, they are developing their fine motor skills and strengthening the muscles in their hands.
> ***These skills will not only be important when it's time for your child(ren) to learn to write, they will help them to become more independent in their self-care (dressing, brushing teeth, feeding themselves, etc.)***

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY SILLY PUTTY?

Discuss the physical properties of the putty you've made together: what does it feel, look, and smell like?
> ***Encouraging this type of scientific inquiry is wonderful for your child(ren)'s developing mind.***

Bury small objects (like beads or buttons) in the putty and let your child(ren) retrieve them. You can even set a timer and have a 'race!'

Make putty 'confetti' by tearing apart the ball into smaller pieces.

Use stamps (or textured household objects like potato mashers, utensils, etc.) to make impressions in the putty.

Take a small ball of the putty and cut it apart with safety scissors.

Smooth putty across a flat tray to use as a base for LEGO or other figurine play.

If your child(ren) have sensory difficulties with the texture of the putty, you can seal it inside of a plastic zip-top bag for them to manipulate without having to touch the putty itself.

See how far you can stretch the putty apart without it breaking.

Roll the putty into a long 'snake' and then manipulate it into different, simple shapes.
> ***This is a great opportunity for your child(ren) to practice their shape knowledge, which is crucial in decoding letters (which are, after all, made of shapes!).***

Most of all, remember to HAVE FUN!