

**Project FOCUS  
Best Lessons  
SECOND GRADE**

**Title of Lesson:** Properties of Playdough

**Theme:** Physical Science

**Unit Number:** 1      **Unit Title:** Properties of Matter

**Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter codes):**

S2P1 a.) Identify the three common states of matter as solid, liquid, or gas

**Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):**

**Habits of Mind**

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

**Content (key terms and topics covered):**

Matter, Mass, Solid, Physical Property, Texture, Senses, Observations

**Learning Activity (Description in Steps)**

**Abstract (limit 100 characters):** The purpose of this lesson is for students to investigate the properties of solids.

**Details:** We began by reviewing the definition of matter- that it is anything that takes up space and has mass. The students reviewed that there are three types of matter: solids, liquids, and gases. Then I had the students begin describing solids. I got descriptions like "hard" and "heavy." I then explained that what makes solids special is that they have their own special shape that does not change no matter where you put it. I explained that solids also have the same size (or volume). To demonstrate this idea, we made playdough as a class. Mix flour, salt, water, and food coloring in a large mixing bowl until it has a thick, solid consistency. Add extra flour as necessary until it does not adhere to the bowl and is no longer sticky. Once it was made partitioned it among each of the students. They were able to see the difference between the properties of the solid and liquid ingredients and the solid products. The solid playdough that they played with could be held in their hands, set on the desk, set inside the desk, etc, without changing shape.

**Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):**

2 Cups Salt

2 Cups Water

4 Cups Flour

**Food Coloring**

**Mixing Bowl**

**STURDY Wooden Spoon**

**Plastic Snack Bags for Each of the Students to Keep their Playdoh**

**Measuring Cups**

**Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):**

**I found it helpful and more time efficient to make the playdoh the night before and partition it into bags for each of the students already. Then you can quickly and easily make a smaller batch during the demonstration for the students to see. It is easier to mix and make in smaller proportions and the kids will not lose interest.**

**Sources/References:**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)