

Air Dry Clay Hands.



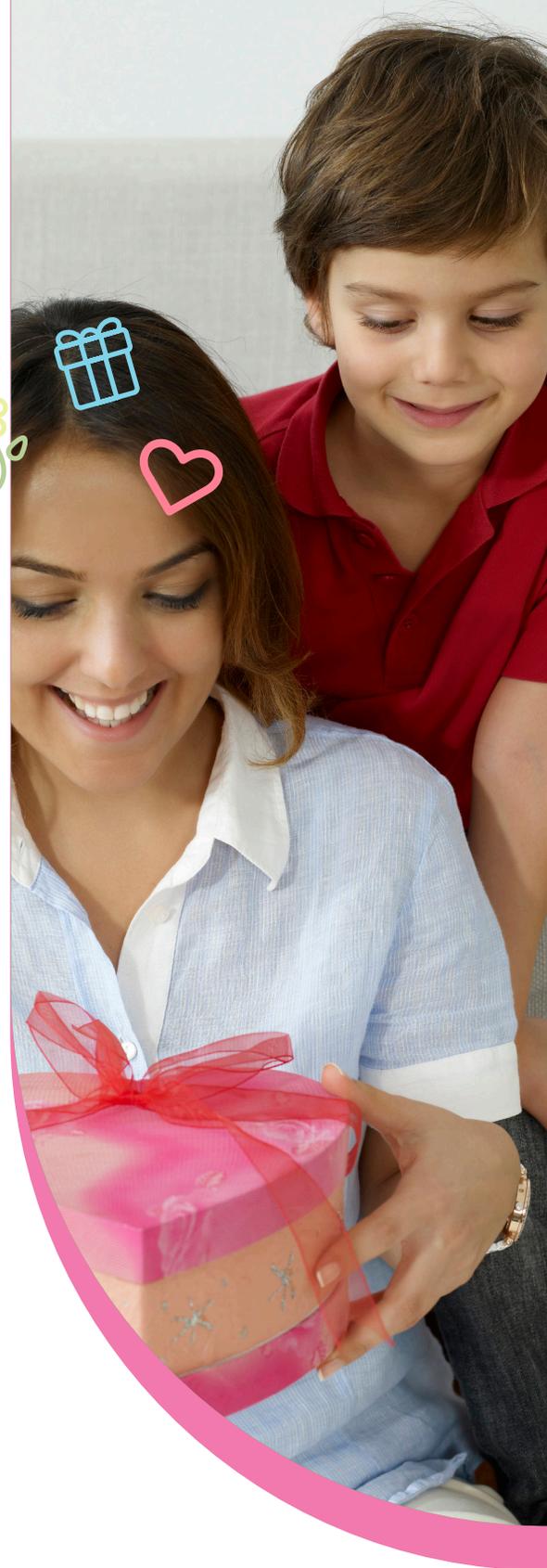
We've developed a creative activity plan to help children express their appreciation and love for the motherly figures in their lives who care for them.

MATERIALS

- **Air drying clay white 1kg** - Product Code: 25091228
- **Wooden rolling pin** - Product Code: 20001626
- **Textured items** - eg. fabric doilies, leaves, bubble wrap
- **2 x cotton fabric squares** - large enough to roll the dough flat between them
- **An old magazine, thin pieces of wood or similar** - to use as depth guides (should be 3mm - 5mm thick)
- **A piece of cardboard with the child's name** - for drying the clay on (it will take 3-5 days for clay to dry completely)
- **Paint eg. Teter Mek Acrylic Paint** - Product Code: 25082201
- **Paint brush** - Product Code: 25091163
- **Paint palette tray** - Product Code: 18646350 or 25123242
- **Wooden knife** - Product Code: 25067738
- **Straw** - Product Code: 25075339
- **String** - Product Code: 87124889

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Lay one of your cotton squares on the table.
2. Place your depth guides on either side of the cotton square – you will use these when rolling out the dough to prevent it from being rolled out too thin. If the dough rolls out too thin, it may crack or break during the drying process, and the result will be very fragile.





This lesson plan has been created in collaboration with Melissa Cupidon who has a Certificate III in Children Services and 4 years' experience teaching art in the early childhood learning sector. Melissa is also a self-taught, practicing artist who owns and operates her own art studio, Creative Makes.

3. Roll clay into a ball between the palm of your hands. The amount of clay needed will vary depending on the age of the children, so we recommend testing with one student first to help allocate enough clay for the rest of the group. This is a great opportunity to allow children to help weigh the clay for numeracy practice.
4. Place clay onto the prepared cotton square and place second cotton square on top.
5. Roll the clay between the two cotton squares using a rolling pin, ensuring that once the clay is flattened the rolling pin is rolling along the guides, preventing the clay from being rolled too thin. You may also need to lift and turn the clay during this process to allow for even rolling.
6. Remove the top cotton square and place your textured item over the clay with the textured side down.
7. Place the cotton square back on and repeat the rolling process, ensuring that the textured item is pressed firmly into the clay.
8. Remove both the cotton square and the textured item.
9. Place the child's hand onto the clay and trace softly around it using the end of your paintbrush (press hard enough to leave a mark but not too hard).
10. Take hand away and use a knife to cut around the shape of the hand.
11. Use the end of a straw to press a hole into the clay at the bottom of the palm area. This will be used to hang the handprint once dry.
12. Gently remove the excess clay from around the edges. Using the cotton square that is still under the handprint, lift the handprint up, peel it off the cotton square and place onto the named piece of cardboard to dry.
13. Allow to dry for at least three days. Once dry, the handprint can be painted.
14. Thread string through the hole previously made with the straw and tie to form a loop.

OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS TO ASK DURING THIS ACTIVITY:

- How does the clay feel – is it cold/warm soft/hard?
- What do you think will happen when we use the roller on the clay?
- I wonder what will happen when we roll over the bubble wrap/doily/leaf etc?
- I wonder if your hand is bigger or smaller than mine/your friends?