

# Mud Kitchen 3-5 years

## You will need:

- Utensils such as spoons, pots, pans
- Mud
- Water (it is important that the children can wash the mud away)

## The Activity:

- Encourage your child to experiment and explore by using different utensils to mix mud and water together.
- Join in! Work together to create their learning space. Demonstrate to your child what can happen if you mix different amounts of water to the mud.
- Talk to your child while they are exploring - add new words by explaining what they are doing, for example mixing, banging, stirring, adding, dividing.
- Discuss the different textures and mixtures, again using a variety of new and different words.

## How this supports knowledge and development:

- Children will develop their fine and gross motor skills, and hand-eye coordination.
- Mathematical opportunities are endless – children can measure, fill buckets or cups, and explore capacity.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Encourage your child's creativity by asking them to find other materials outside that can be experimented with – then mixing them with the mud and water. Examples include flowers, herbs, leaves, twigs or grass. These all make excellent decorative toppings for your mud pies!
- Water based, or powdered paint can be added to the mud to add a colourful new dimension to your child's creations.
- For older children, stepping back and giving them space to explore independently may be necessary for them to really embrace their own thinking and ideas.



## Keeping Everyone Safe

Distract children from eating mud by encouraging mixing.



Enrich vocabulary development  
with related words such as:

wet	dry	stir
mix	full	empty
add	divide	subtract
more	less	splash
heavy	measure	wash



Colour and cut out some fruit to decorate your mud pies.

### TOP TIP

Creating a mud kitchen doesn't have to be costly or timely. For a young child, some mud, saucepans and water will do nicely. Be sure to place the saucepans to the side of a sitting child rather than in front - this will help them to explore and stop them overreaching.

**Remember**, after making all those lovely mud pies, you can have even more fun in a bubble bath getting clean again!

