

STEAM MODELING WITH CLAY

GRADES PK+

MATERIALS

- General-use clay
- (Examples: modeling clay, Play-Doh, homemade clay or dough)
- Various household objects: forks, toothpicks, craft sticks, string, etc.



OBSERVE

Encourage children to talk about the steps they took to make their object. They can also tell stories with their models. Ask if they can relate their models to stories that other children are telling.

CREATE

Scan the QR code for an easy recipe for homemade modeling clay. Making several batches allows for multiple colors.



PLAY

Allow children to make models of animals or objects in their world. Geometric designs and patterns are also a good challenge. Even abstract ideas like feelings can be modelled.

KEY CONCEPTS

Composing & Decomposing

The child can observe and identify components of an object, creating them independently and combining to make a whole.

Self-Expression

The child can make art or design with materials and tools to express interests, questions, and curiosity

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are you making? Is there a special reason you chose that?
- What are some shapes you see? Are there certain parts which make up the whole object?
- How might you change your model if you made it again?
- If your model could talk, what would it say?

THINGS TO NOTICE

- The child's creativity and creative process, including their persistence in completing a piece of work.
- In what ways does the child change or modify their plan, or adapt to how the clay responds to their efforts?
- What tools, images, or other resources does the child use in their creative process?

RESOURCES

AIMS HANDS ONline Webinar
<https://bit.ly/3LXVvRP>

Easy Clay Animal Ideas
<https://bit.ly/3O6Ou2Z>

Modeling Clay Recipe
<https://bit.ly/3M0vmC8>