

STORY
DOUGH!



STORY DOUGH

MARSDEN I AND N SCHOOL



What is Story Dough?

Story Dough is a multisensory early literacy and play approach which uses playdough, rhymes, and imagination to build characters, settings, and props while exploring oral storytelling for nursery age children.

How does Story Dough link with Drawing Club?

Drawing Club naturally blends with story dough by shifting the physical models from 3D dough into 2D co-regulation drawing. It does the following:

- Bridges the Gap: Children use story dough to physically manipulate characters, then transition to drawing them on paper with confidence.
- Unlock Codes: In Drawing Club, children add mathematical or phonic "codes" to unleash a character's magic. Story dough allows them to stamp or score these codes into the dough first.
- Vocabulary Immersion: The rich, playful language introduced during dough play is directly repurposed as the thematic vocabulary for the day's drawing session.

How does Story Dough Work?

Story dough works by combining physical play with oral storytelling to help children practice narrative structure before they ever pick up a pencil. It relies on a three-part process that transforms abstract imagination into concrete language.

1. Physical Anchoring

Children cannot easily hold an entire abstract story in their minds at once. Story dough acts as a physical anchor; when a child molds a ball of dough into a monster or a mountain, that thought becomes a tangible, 3D object sitting in front of them, which frees up their brain to focus on creating a plot.

2. Oral Rehearsal

As children manipulate the dough, they naturally talk about what they are doing. This creates a playful feedback loop where they speak, listen to their own words, adjust their models, and refine their ideas aloud—essentially speaking their first draft before trying to write it down.

3. Thematic "Story Dreaming"

Led by an adult, the group uses shared prompts and repetitive chants to immerse themselves in a fictional world. By physically acting out actions with the dough (like making a character climb or hide), children learn about verbs, sequencing, and story tension through movement

How does Story Dough support writing?

Story dough supports writing by:-

- **Building Fine Motor Strength:** Squeezing, rolling, flattening, and pinching the dough develops the small hand and finger muscles needed to comfortably hold a pencil and apply steady pressure.
- **Encouraging Oral Composition:** Children talk about what they mold, rehearsing narrative structures, sequencing, and plot ideas aloud before trying to put them down on paper.
- **Expands Vocabulary:** Interactive rhymes and imaginative "story dreaming" sessions introduce children to rich descriptive words, nonsense language, and new verbs that later enhance their written descriptions.
- **Fosters Symbolic Thinking:** Molding characters out of dough helps children understand that a physical object can represent a symbol or idea, bridging the cognitive gap toward understanding that abstract letters and marks represent words and stories.

Why do we use Story Dough?

We believe children learn best when they are engaged, inspired and having fun. Story Dough give children the freedom to be imaginative while developing the essential foundations needed for reading and writing.

Nursery Structure



NOODLE AND TITCH



Noodle and Titch love STORY DOUGH!

Noodle is a robot and Titch is his little Moonpin friend.
When they're not drinking tea, eating biscuits or inventuring, they love stories.

Noodle and Titch spend Time Together making up stories and
use playdough to invent and story dream.

And now you can join them!

Time Together between adults and children
is an integral part of co-play.

It's a chance to 'snuggle in' and chat, share ideas, wonder
and feel joy in each others' company.

STORY DOUGH! helps us do just that!





PLAY-FULLNESS



Noodle and Titch want us to be play-full. Childhood wants us to be play-full too, not Mr Grumpygroo; it wants joy!

When we choose to do STORY DOUGH! with children, joy has to be at the heart of it - to delight in one another's company. The key purpose behind STORY DOUGH! is all about strengthening muscles, imagination and connection.



If while doing STORY DOUGH! children follow their own tangent with what they are making then go with it - be curious, wonder what they might be showing you - STORY DOUGH! embraces childhood's fascinations and is there to help us see these.

STORY DOUGH! is not control, it is creative!!



THE SIX MINI MOMENTS



	MINI MOMENT 1	MINI MOMENT 2	MINI MOMENT 3	MINI MOMENT 4	MINI MOMENT 5	MINI MOMENT 6
WHAT	GATHER TOGETHER AND WAKE UP THE PLAYDOUGH	WARM UP THE PLAYDOUGH	STORY DREAM: MAKE CHARACTER, CHAT AND MAGIC	STORY DREAM: MAKE INVENTION, CHAT AND MAGIC	MAKE THE GREAT BIG BUTTON OF ULTIMATE DOOM	SING GOODBYE TO THE PLAYDOUGH
HOW	CHOOSE THE RHYME TO WAKE UP THE PLAYDOUGH	CHOOSE THE WORDS TO SPRINKLE	CHOOSE YOUR CHARACTER AND THE CODE	CHOOSE YOUR INVENTION AND THE CODE	CHOOSE WHAT TO SAY TO MAKE THE BUTTON WORK	CHOOSE THE RHYME TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE PLAYDOUGH
TIME	1 MINUTE	1 MINUTE	3 MINUTES	3 MINUTES	1 MINUTE	1 MINUTE