

BLINK AT HOME

PLAYDOH ROBOTS

How can we form PlayDoh into robots?

Skills to Develop

- + Making shapes
- + Creative thinkings
- + Fine motor skills

Materials

- + PlayDoh
- + Robohardware (screws, pipecleaners, nuts, bolts, etc.)
- + Flour (optional)
- + Salt (optional)
- + Water (optional)
- + Bowl (optional)

WHAT TO DO

Prepare Homemade Salt Dough (optional)

1. Mix 2 cups of flour and 1 cup of salt together in a bowl.
2. Slowly add approximately 1 cup of water a few tablespoons at a time, mixing continuously as you pour, until your dough is smooth and easy to handle.
3. Knead the dough for 10 minutes.
4. Let dough rest for 20 minutes before use.

During the Learning Activity

1. Set up your workspace and gather your assorted robot materials and salt dough. NOTE: cookie cutters and butter knives make great shaping tools.
2. Look at some photos of robots. Discuss robots in favorite shows or movies. How are the forms of robots designed for different jobs? What shapes are used to make these robots?
3. Invite your child to create a robot using the salt dough and assorted recycled materials.
4. As you build, ask: What does your robot do? What is your robot's name? How could you change your robot's to better complete its job?

Extend the Fun

- + Can you walk and talk like your robot?
- + What tools and materials can we find around the house to help us shape or improve our robots?