

Activities to Try at Home

Here are a selection of ideas and activities split into the different Areas of Learning that you can do to help your child work towards achieving their early learning goals.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

- Try playing some simple board or card games together or try working together to build a jigsaw puzzle.
- Encourage your child to talk about their friends and arrange opportunities to invite friends round for tea or meet up at a park for the children to play together.
- Encourage children to talk about their likes and dislikes in terms of activities they like and do not like to do. Encourage them to explain their thoughts and feelings.
- Encourage children to be independent but to ask for help when needed. Encourage them to talk to familiar adults and children about activities they would like to do.
- Discuss different feelings – try acting out different emotions for children to identify.
- Discuss plans and routines and encourage children to talk about their daily activities.

Communication and Language

- Initiate conversations with your child, ask questions and demonstrate how to be a good listener.
- Share rhymes, songs, books and stories. Talk about what is happening in the stories or rhymes. With a familiar rhyme or book, stop suddenly and ask your child to continue, or you could accidentally get the words 'wrong' and your child could correct you!
- When sharing stories together, talk about the story and the characters. Ask your child to explain events in stories.
- Model correct sentence structure and words – instead of over correcting your child, repeat words or sentences, e.g. if your child says "bued an apple" say "Yes, you bought an apple."
- When you have a holiday, a day out or a trip somewhere, work together to create a record of the event, such as a photo, collection of objects or a drawing, which you can talk about later.
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- Talk about your children's interests and encourage them to learn and use new vocabulary.

Physical Development

- As a family, try some different active activities! You could try; dancing, playing football, going for walks, riding a bike or going swimming.
- Encourage children to try using different types of materials and simple tools. Provide playdough or salt dough to knead and make model, as well as beads to thread onto laces. You could also provide tools, such as child-safe scissors, paintbrushes, crayons, and child-safe knives and forks.
- Encourage your child to get dressed/undressed independently and manage their own personal hygiene (such as washing their hands and brushing their teeth).
- Encourage your child to talk about healthy food choices. Go shopping with your child and talk about healthy foods and why a balanced diet is important.

Literacy

- Share pleasure in reading with your child. Share books together and join a local library. Encourage your child to look at a range of different books such as, stories, poems, information books and comics. Talk about favourite stories and characters.
- Practise identifying letter sounds (phonics). Look for letters you see when you visit different places and demonstrate reading the words.
- Make word and letter sound cards for sounds or words your child finds tricky. Try saying them in funny voices to help practising them more fun!
- Encourage your child to explore writing using different materials such as pencils, chalk, crayons and pens. They could try writing letters into a tray of sand or flour using a finger or try painting letters onto a pavement using a paintbrush and water.
- Demonstrate different purposes for writing such as writing a shopping list, writing a greetings card or a postcard when on holiday. Encourage children to try writing for different purposes too and praise them for their efforts.

Mathematics

- Look for numbers when you visit different places. Talk about house numbers, car number plates, prices of goods in the supermarket, etc. Challenge children to identify the numbers and say which number is one more or one less than the ones they see.
- Play dice games with your child such as snakes and ladders.
- Talk about simple addition and subtraction in practical ways. Use toys or other items to demonstrate addition by counting on and subtraction by counting back.
- Look for 2D and 3D shapes around the house or when out and about and ask your child to describe them. Encourage the use of correct terms such as 'sides' and 'corners'. Build models or pictures using empty packaging or paper shapes and talk about the shapes used.
- Compare size, weight and capacity. Get your child using words like 'longer', 'shorter', 'taller', 'heavier', 'lighter', 'full' and 'empty'. Talk about things you see in the world around you, or create opportunities for comparison, perhaps by rolling playdough snakes ('Can you make a longer/ shorter one?') or pouring water into different cups during bath time.

Understanding the World

- Talk about special events in your family, such as holidays, weddings, birthdays and celebrations. Maybe bring in a souvenir to show the class!
- Take a trip to a park and look at the plants, insects and animals.
- Explore different weather conditions and talk about seasonal changes in the world around you.
- Go on a technology treasure hunt at home! Talk to your child about how we make these things work and how to use them safely.
- Look at different types of technology when you're out and about. They could explore using a camera to take photos on days out too.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Try some different creative activities using a variety of different materials such as; making musical instrument models using empty packaging, collage activities to make pictures using wool or coloured paper and mix colours of paint to paint pictures.
- Encourage children to sing their favourite songs and listen to music.
- Try using some toys or make some puppets and create your own story!
- Try setting up a pretend shop, restaurant, hairdressers salon, workshop or classroom. Role play as customers and shopkeepers, etc. and create stories and scenes together.

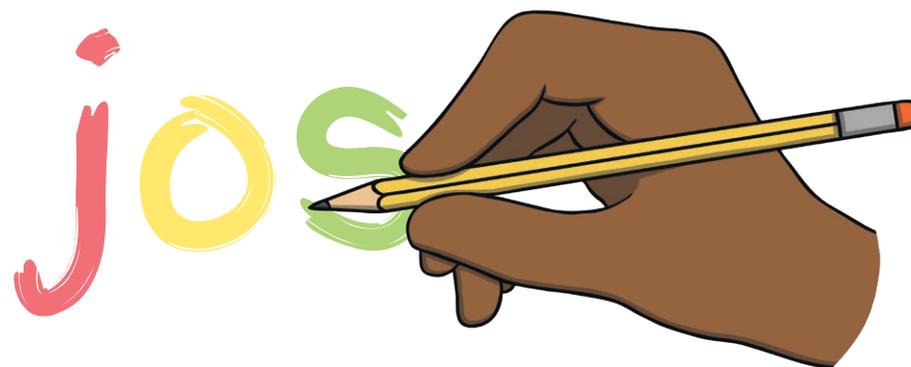
EYFS School Closure Challenge Cards

Can you draw your house? Can you label your picture?



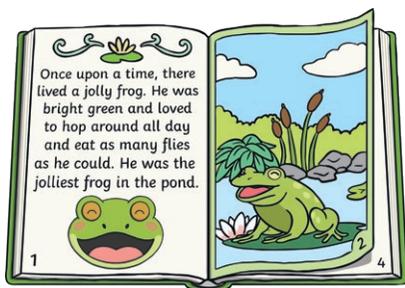
EYFS School Closure Challenge Cards

Write your name, using a different colour for each letter.



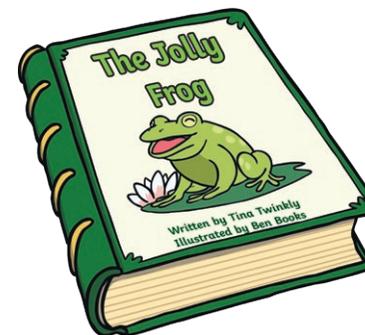
EYFS School Closure Challenge Cards

Choose a new book to read.
Stop reading in the middle of the story.
Can you guess what will happen at the end?
Were you right?

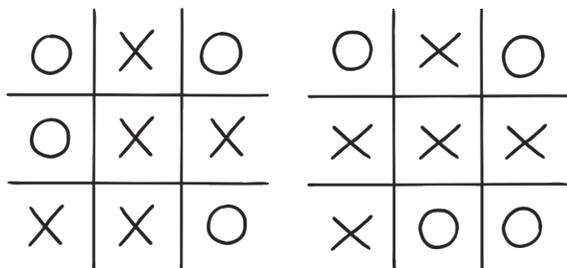


EYFS School Closure Challenge Cards

Look through a book. Can you find any words with more than seven letters?
What is the longest word you can find?



Can you fill a grid with circles and crosses? What pattern can you make?



Can you fill a piece of paper with your fingerprints?



Wall Warm-Up

Find a wall. How many arm pushes can you do in a minute?



Animal Antics

Use your body to pretend to be different animals:

Snake: slither across the floor

Butterfly: flutter around the room

Elephant: stomp with both feet

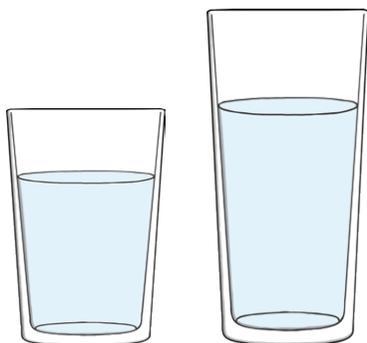
Kangaroo: bounce around

Frog: hop like a frog

Flamingo: stand still on one leg

EYFS School Closure Challenge Cards

Can you fill a cup with water? Can you fill two cups? Do they hold the same amount of water?



EYFS School Closure Challenge Cards

Look at some ice carefully. What can you see inside? Can you find a way to melt the ice?



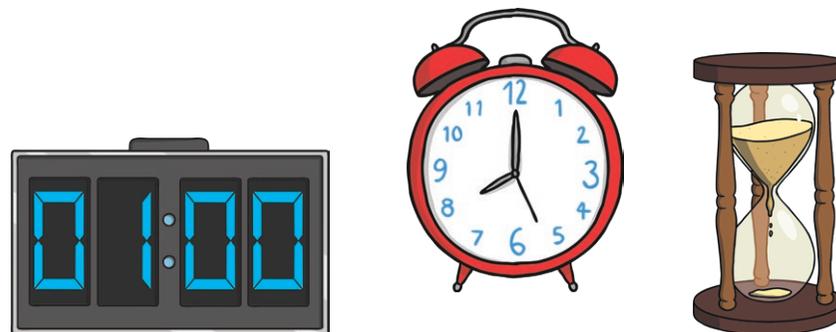
EYFS School Closure Challenge Cards

How many times can you sing a chosen nursery rhyme in one minute?

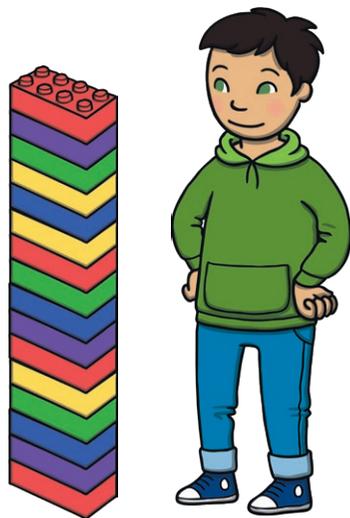


EYFS School Closure Challenge Cards

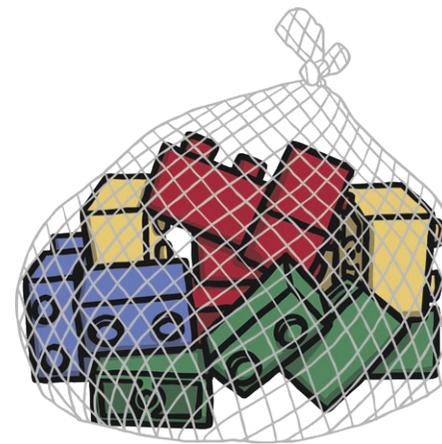
How many different ways can you time one minute?



Can you build a tower of blocks as tall as you? How can you make it balance?



Choose 20 blocks and build a model. Can you use the same blocks to build a different model?



Dinosaur

Home Learning Challenge

Gather together some playdough or some empty boxes and create your own dinosaur. You could use a book or a toy to help you build it. You could paint it when you have finished making it. Ask someone to guess what type of dinosaur it is.



Take a blanket outside and watch the clouds on a cloudy day. See if you can spot any clouds that look like dinosaurs. Do they have spikes or long tails? You could ask a friend or family member to play with you. Who can spot the most?

Create your own dinosaur. Draw a picture then write its name underneath. You could ask a grown-up to help you write some adjectives to describe your new dinosaur. Is it scary or friendly? Is it large, long or scaly?



If there are 10 dinosaurs in the forest and 4 get lost, how many are left? Use your fingers to help you.



Can you think of some more words that start with the sound 'd'? Try to write a list of six.



Think of a dinosaur and describe it to a friend or someone in your family. They have to guess which dinosaur you are! Remember to use adjectives to describe the dinosaur. E.g. "I am big. I have a long neck and a long tail. I like to eat the leaves in the trees." You could use an information book to help you find out what they look like.

Exploring Technology

Home Learning Challenges

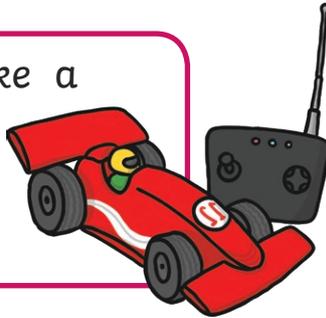
Have a look around your home. How many different types of technology can you find? Which room has the most electrical devices? Talk to your grown-up and find out what they are used for.



Go for a walk with your grown-up and use a camera or phone to take some photographs. When you get home, you could look back at the different pictures that you have taken.

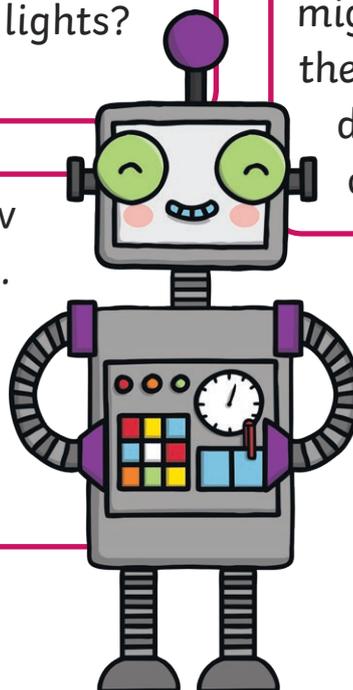


Do any of your toys make a sound or move when you push a button? Are any of them remote-controlled?



Try making a list of the different types of technology you can see on your way to school. Can you spot any traffic lights? How many cars can you count?

Talk to your grown-up about how electrical items can be dangerous. How can you stay safe around electricity? Make a warning sign to keep your friends and family safe.



Use some junk-modelling materials to create your own robot. Add buttons and think of some fun things that your robot might do when you push the buttons. It might dance, jump or stand on its head!

Cardboard Tube Rocket

You will need:

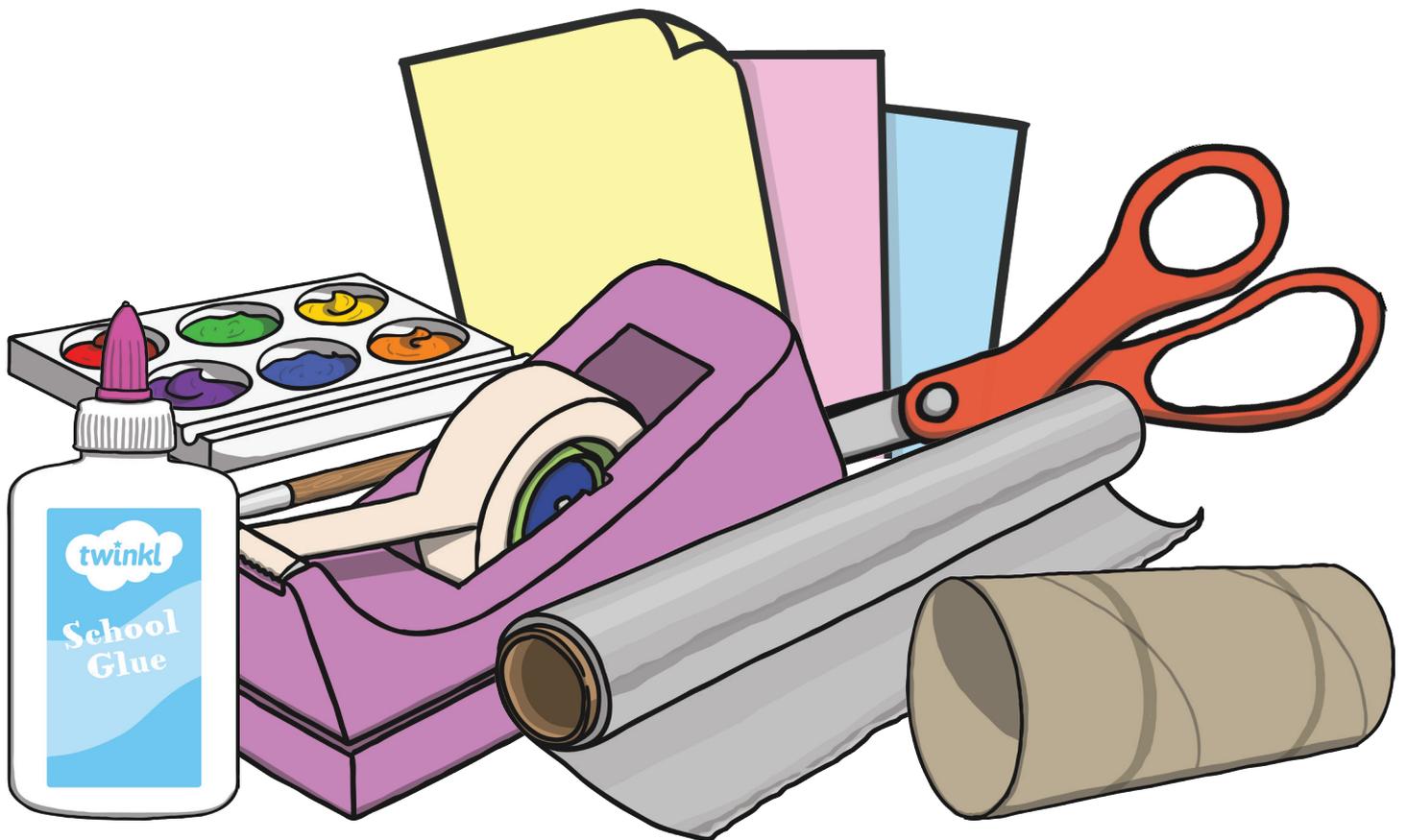
Long cardboard tube
Silver foil
Tissue paper
Brightly coloured card
Brightly coloured paint
PVA glue
Scissors
Sticky tape



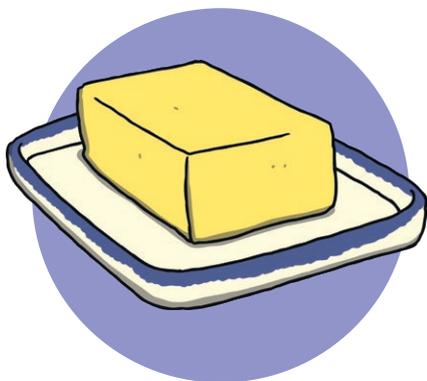
Instructions

1. First paint the cardboard tube in a bright colour, then leave to dry.
2. For the top of the rocket, choose a different coloured card. Then draw around a small circular object, such as a cup, onto this.
3. Cut out the circle. Then also cut out a line going from the outside to the centre of the circle, stopping once you reach the middle.
4. Roll the circle into a cone shape, then secure using sticky tape.
5. Stick two pieces of tape on the inside of the cone. Then stick the cone onto the top of the cardboard tube.
6. Now make some windows for the rocket using silver foil. To do this, draw around a small circular object onto the foil three times.
7. Next cut out the circles in silver foil and stick them onto the rocket using PVA glue.
8. For the flame, take some pieces of tissue paper and place them onto of each other in layers.

9. Pick up the layers of tissue paper and cut the strips vertically into them, ensuring the cuts do not go right to the top.
10. Finally, gather the sheets of tissue paper at the top, then secure and strengthen this by sticking tape around it.
11. Using sticky tape to attach the flame to the bottom of the rocket.



Tablespoon Biscuit Recipe



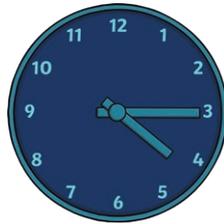
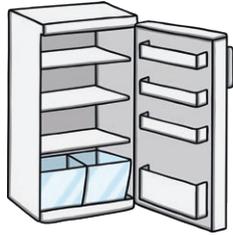
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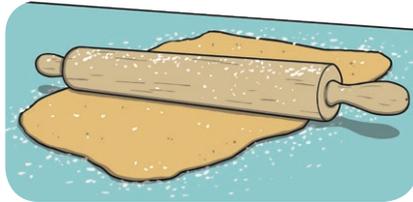


3



30 minutes

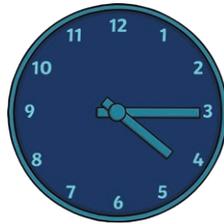
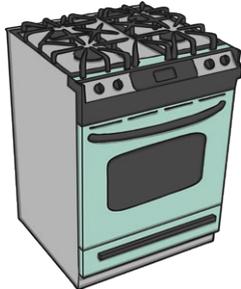
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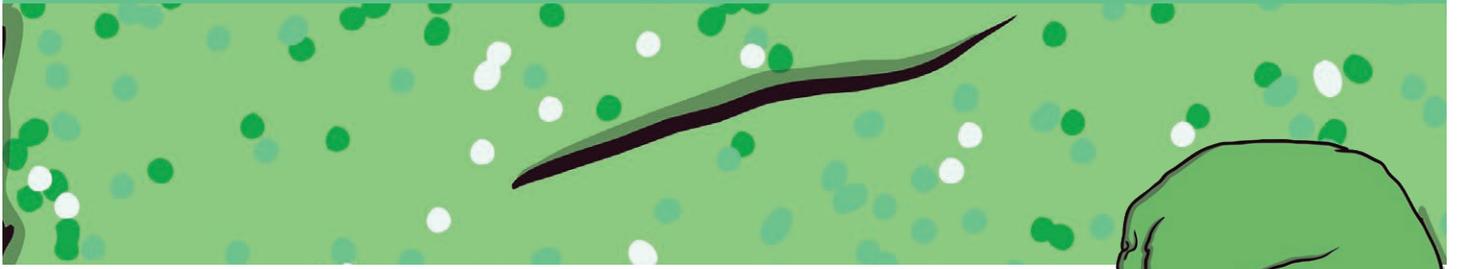
12 minutes

7



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Follow the instructions on this sheet to make your own playdough
– no cooking or hot water required!



No-Cook Playdough



Ingredients

- 2 cups plain flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 cup cold water
- 2 drops liquid food colouring
– any colour of your choosing

Method

1. Mix the flour and salt together in a large mixing bowl.
2. Add the cold water, oil and drops of food colouring and mix together.
3. When your ingredients are well mixed, take them out of your bowl and place your dough onto a flat surface, such as greaseproof paper.
4. Knead vigorously for a few minutes, until your dough feels like playdough and all of the stickiness has gone.

What is kneading?

This is when you press, massage, squeeze and fold your dough.

If your dough is too wet, add a little extra flour and carry on kneading.

If your dough is too dry and crumbly, add an extra drop of cold water and carry on kneading.

Make sure you add any extra ingredients a little bit at a time.



Salt Dough

Playdough Recipe

You will need:

2 cups flour

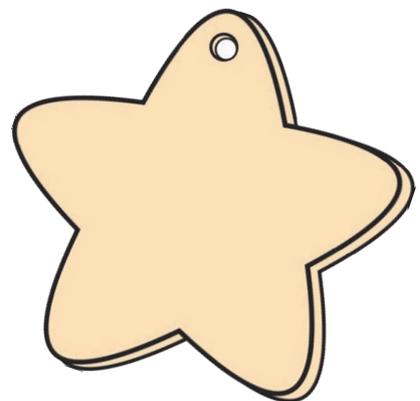
1 cup salt

1 cup water

Food colouring (optional)

Method

1. Mix together the flour and salt in a large mixing bowl.
2. If desired, add 5-10 drops of food colouring to 1 cup of water.
3. Stir the water into the flour and salt in the large bowl.
4. Roll out the dough on a flat surface and knead it together. It should be soft and pliable.
5. Make models and ornaments.
6. The dough can be left to air dry or dried in a low oven 120-150°C. The time the dough takes to dry will depend on the size and thickness of your creations.





Twinkl's Best Quick

Playdough Recipe

You will need:

2 cups plain flour

1 cup salt

2 tbsp vegetable oil

2 tbsp cream of tartar

2 cups boiling water

Food colouring

Food essence flavouring

Microwave

Microwavable bowl

Wooden spoon

Method

1. Add the flour, salt, oil and cream of tartar to the bowl.
2. If you are using food colouring and/or food essence flavouring, add these to the bowl too.
3. Add 2 cups of boiling water and stir vigorously until the mixture is combined into a dough.
4. Microwave for 30 seconds.
5. When the dough has cooled slightly, tip onto a work surface and knead until smooth and pliable.

