

5.1 Mud play

What is it?

Mud is an open-ended, natural material that stimulates children's imaginative and creative play including their dramatic, rough and tumble, and cooperative play experiences.

Why is it important?

Muddy areas in children's environments triggers in them a sense of adventure and creative play that contribute to their exploring and making discoveries about natural properties in their play spaces. Mud, being open-ended, supports children in being able to freely express and represent new ideas, thoughts and emotions. Playing with mud offers children a sensory satisfaction. Mud play adds to children's cognitive concepts and knowledge in many aspects including, the scientific principles of mass, volume, and the nature of change (Stone, 2005).

Examples

Natural mud pits, mud kitchens, mud areas created from rain and mud areas created by adults and children

- ★ Possible materials to combine with mud play
- Tent, or large sheets that are water proof
- Wheelbarrows
- Digging tools
- Loose parts
- Sticks
- Hula hoops

