

Salt Dough Diya



Diwali

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Preschoolers
2.5 - 4 years

Diya lamps are traditionally used for cultural festivals during Diwali. Hindus, globally celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights, and these Diya candle holders or oil lamps are spread throughout the home. These salt lamps are very easy to make and the kids will have loads of fun making them and then decorating them.

Learning Outcomes

Domain:

Cognitive

Indicator:

Constructing 3D objects

Skills:

Representation



Materials

- 1 cup salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup water
- Large bowl for mixing
- Baking Tray
- Tin foil
- Paint of different colors
- Colorful beads and sparkles
- Paintbrushes
- Tealight candle (optional)



Instructions

Step 1: Start by making your salt dough lamp base by mixing the first 3 ingredients together. Once a dough is formed, roll small balls of the dough to form a firm ball.

Step 2: Next, push the ball down gently to flatten the bottom to prevent it from rolling. Now, take your thumbs and push into the ball to form a rim around the dough ball.

Step 3: Once you're happy with the shape of your Diya, place it in a hot oven (350F) for 15-20 minutes until hard. Remove from oven and set in a safe place to cool down.

Step 4: Once cooled, it's time to paint and decorate! When the Diya is dry from the paint you can add a tea light candle (real or battery-operated) and enjoy your new lamp!



Age Adjustments

For older preschoolers: This would be a great time to introduce fire safety to younger ones, especially if you're using a real candle. Make sure to supervise when lighting a match and having a lit candle around your home!

For younger toddlers: Younger toddlers will love the "helping" aspect of this activity - mixing the dough, forming the dough balls, washing the paint brushes - all great practice for their self-help skills!



Playful Questions

- What are other types of light we can explore? (electricity, fire, the sun etc.)
- Is there another way we could build the lamp to hold the tealight?
- Do you have any traditions at home that you do every year?
- Do you have any lamps at home that look similar to this?
- Can you tell me about the design you used for your lamp?