 Anna’s 4 minute playdough recipe

**Ingredients:**

* 2 cups plain flour
* 1 cup salt
* 3 tablespoons cream of tartar
* 3 tablespoons oil
* 2 cups boiling water with food colouring added

**Method:**

1. Mix the dry ingredients together in a large bowl.
2. Make a well in the centre and pour in the oil
3. Stir the food colouring into the boiling water and tip into the flour mixture while it is still really hot.
4. Mix well with a wooden spoon to incorporate all the flour.
5. When it’s cool enough to handle, turn out on to a work surface and knead well for about 2 minutes until it is smooth and pliable.
6. Stored in an airtight bag, it will keep for about a month.

NB: the thick paste food colourings are fantastic (e.g. these <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sugarflair-Rainbow-Pastes-Perfect-Decorating/dp/B00K5SUR50/ref=sr_1_1_s_it?s=grocery&ie=UTF8&qid=1521713176&sr=1-1&keywords=sugarflair+food+colouring>. They last forever as you only need a tiny bit. Second best are the gel ones, but you don’t get such a strong bright colour. Alternatively, you can use powder paint.

**Variations:**

* Instead of food colouring, add a couple of teaspoons of cinnamon to the dry mix for a natural playdough for play cooking.
* Add glitter or sequins to the dry mix for sparkly playdough. Glitter in black playdough is lovely!
* Add lemon/orange/ mint essence to yellow/ orange/ green playdough
* Provide buttons, googly eyes, pipe cleaners and pompoms to make aliens or monsters.
* Provide colourful feathers and googly eyes to make birds
* Provide cinnamon sticks, star anise and cloves with cutters and rollers and cake cases to make and decorate biscuits and cakes.
* Provide straws and rollers to punch little holes in a flat sheet of playdough.
* Provide play people, leaves, flowers, herbs and twigs etc to stick in it and make a garden/landscape.
* Provide cars and diggers to drive in it and make different tracks.
* ….etc etc, the sky’s the limit!