

ZEKE'S FUN AT HOME ACTIVITY CORNER

May 1 2020

Dear Zoo-Friends,

This week's playful lessons will celebrate **Helping Hands!** Today, we are again going to call our theme, "**Helping Hands Helping Around the House!**" We will just add new ideas! Next week's lesson theme is called, "**Growing Strong and Capable Children!**" (With some "Cinco de Mayo" fun included on Wednesday!)

- 1) **Zoo-phonics (Alphabet and Movement!):** Play an indoor or outside game of "Zoophonia Says..." This is played like the game, "Simon Says" except you use the Zoo-phonics Animal Names, Signals and letter sounds. You say, "Zoophonia says, "Do Catina Cat!" Your child will respond with Catina Cat's Signal and sound. Do this with the various Animals...and then...say, "Do Olive Octopus!" (See? You didn't say, "Zoophonia Says." Zoophonia *has* to give permission!) So, explain the rules first and then have fun! Let your child be Zoophonia.



Important Note: This is a great **listening and following directions** activity plus your child will use his/her fingers, hands, arms, and legs throughout. It is perfect for preschoolers and kindergarten kids!

2. **Engineering:** This is definitely a "**busy hands**" project so little hands and fingers can become stronger and more coordinated. Today you child will practice **rolling out play dough and cutting with cookie cutters** in preparation for making cookies next week.
 - a) Use a small, child-sized rolling pin (or a short, one-inch dowling works well, too) for small hands. Your child can also pat and press the play dough with fingers and hands so it becomes thinner.
 - b) Once rolled or pressed out, your child will use various cookie cutters to press into the dough. S/he'll then use fingers to pick the "cookie" up and place it on a cookie sheet (no eating!).
 - c) *Variation:* You can make salt and flour dough and bake it for a necklace, ornament or tiny picture frame.
3. **Socializing:** It is good for children to learn about children their own ages in other countries. In 3rd world countries, children go to work very early because the families are poor and need the income. Not all children can go to school. In many countries only boys are educated. In places like Japan, children are taught very early to use their hands and fingers (fine motor control) for painting, making origami, or playing a musical instrument. *Here is an excellent web-site:* <https://kidsinothercountries.org/>.



Play Dough Recipe: 1 cup water; 1 tablespoon vegetable oil; 1/2 cup salt; 1 tablespoon cream of tartar; food coloring; 1 cup flour. *Optional:* scents (cinnamon, vanilla, lavender, etc.).

Directions:

Combine water, oil, salt, cream of tartar, and individual food coloring in a saucepan and heat until warm.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The cream of tartar makes this dough last 6 months or longer!

1. Remove from heat and add flour.
2. Stir, then knead until smooth.
3. Store dough in an airtight container or a freezer bag.

Salt and Flour Dough Recipe: 2 cups all-purpose flour; 1 cup of salt; 1 cup of water. Measure, pour, mix, roll. Sprinkle extra flour on the counter. Turn the mixture into a ball and cover the outside with the extra flour. Start rolling it flat. Cookie cutter time! Put a hole at the top so you can string it with yarn for a necklace or an ornament. Place them on a cookie sheet and bake until hard (about 10 minutes). For a picture frame, cut the inside of the "cookie." Once baked, adhere a picture to the back.