**Creative Activities.**

**Sock Puppet**

Make a sock puppet from an odd sock. Sew on buttons for eyes, use wool or cotton to make a mouth. Add fabric ears if you have some scrap fabric. Make a few and put on a puppet show.

**Decorate Biscuits.**

Make water icing with icing sugar and water. Add water slowly until it is spreadable. Add a few drops of food colouring.

Use to decorate shop bought or home made biscuits.

Add small sweets, hundreds and thousands, edible silver balls or whatever you have.

**Wonderful Windows**

Brighten up your neighbourhood by taking part in wonderful windows.

Draw, paint or collage a picture and put up in the window for all to see. If you want to go further, decorate an entire window, add fairy lights etc.

Suggested themes, but do what ever you feel.:

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| 18th March | Rainbows |
| 21st March | Mothers Day |
| 24th March | Encouraging Words |
| 27th March | Sunset |
| 1st April | Funny Faces/Jokes |
| 3rd April | Animals |
| 6th April | Space |
| 9th April | Easter |
| 13th April | Under The Sea |
| 16th April | Flowers and Plants |
| 19th April | Flags |
| 21st April | Hearts |

**Junk Modelling**

Raid the recycling box, use what you find to make models.

Older children and adults love this too, their models are just more detailed.

Use paint and felt tip pens or crayons to add details to your models.

**Playdough**

How to make your own playdough

You will need: 2 cups plain flour (all purpose),

 2 tablespoons vegetable oil,

 ½ cup salt,

up to 1.5 cups boiling water (adding bit by bit until it feels just right),

food colouring (optional – this really can get messy!).

You might also want to use some household items like child-friendly cookie cutters and rolling pins to make shapes with the playdough.

What to do:

1. Mix the flour, salt and oil in a large bowl. If you’re using food colouring, add it to the boiling water then pour into the flour mixture.
2. Stir until it forms a sticky dough.
3. Allow it to cool down then take out of the bowl and knead it for a couple of minutes until all of the stickiness has gone.
4. Keep kneading until it’s the perfect consistency! If it’s still sticky add a little more flour until just right.

If the children want to keep the figures that you make, simply bake in a 250 degree oven for approximately one hour and hey presto, your play dough will harden!

**Salt Dough**

**Salt dough is fun for older kids, you can make detailed models, dry them in the oven, paint or varnish them afterwards. If the finished models are kept dry they last a long time. Great for making gifts, decorations, names etc**

Making salt dough is a really fun and easy activity for kids and the chances are you will have all of the ingredients in the cupboard ready to go on a rainy day. Children will love using their imaginations to create all sorts of exciting objects (although simple shapes do seem to work best) and hours of fun painting their creations, but do take care to remind little ones that the salt dough is not edible.

**Makes** 1 ball
**Prep**10 minutes
**Cook** 3 hours

* 1 cupful of plain flour (about 250g)
* half a cupful of table salt (about 125g)
* half a cupful of water (about 125ml)

**Method**

1. Preheat the oven to its lowest setting and line a baking sheet with baking parchment.

2. Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. Add the water and stir until it comes together into a ball.

3. Transfer the dough to a floured work surface and shape into your chosen model. You can roll it out and cut out shapes, numbers or letters using biscuit cutters, or make any kind of model you can think of. We made some fruit and veg shapes plus cupcakes for a teddy bear’s picnic.

4. Put your finished items on the lined baking sheet and bake for 3 hrs or until solid.

5. Leave to cool and then paint.

**Threading**

Younger children enjoy threading, making necklaces etc.

Use what you have at home, just ensure that young children use items that are large and not a choke hazard.

Shoe Laces, String, Wool, Embroidery Thread.

Cotton Reels, Beads, Pasta, Cut up straws.