

Playdough Progression			
Skills Level	Resources	What will the children show at this level?	Example
Nursery Term 1	• Playdough • Playdough tools • Cutters • Rolling pins	Squash- squeeze in fist. Stretch- hold in both hands and pull. Pull-ups- pinch fingers and thumb upwards. Raise a cone- pinch to a point	
Nursery Term 2	As above plus: • Small parts • Wheel cutters • Stamps • Number cutters 1-5	Make models by pushing objects into the dough Make patterns with everyday objects, wheel cutters, hammers and stamps Roll dough using various types of rolling pins.	
Nursery Term 3 / Reception Term 1	As above plus: • Knives • Scissors • Letter cutters	Roll the dough into cylinder shapes Use knives to cut Begin to use scissors with two hands Roll into various-sized balls Make simple 3D models by joining playdough balls and adding purposeful materials e.g. eyes	
Reception Term 2	As above plus: • Forks • Hammers • Number cutters - 1-10 • clay	Use scissors to cut, holding them with their finger and thumb Muscles fingers- dough on palm, push with each finger Push it through- push a hole in dough between the thumb and each finger Stretch the loop- place a loop of dough around four fingers, stretch fingers Make 3D models using dough Pinch to refine shapes Press tools and objects to create texture and pattern Add purposeful materials and create their own	
Reception Term 3	As above plus: • Opportunities to use clay • Balance scales •	Use clay to make 3D model and sculptures adding features using small parts Weigh out dough to share with peers.	

