

STEM

starts now

Playdough STEM

Recommended Age: 31–36 Months

STEM concepts: Math (Numbers)

Materials: Playdough, a clean surface

What to do: Give your child some time to play with the playdough. Have him explore how to move the playdough and how to squish, pinch, and roll the dough. Show him how to roll a snake-like shape and a sphere. Using snake-like shapes, make the numbers one through five. Have your son roll the number of spheres needed to match each number you made. Then, count the spheres and let him smash them to make pancakes as he counts each sphere.

Language and Communication: As you make each number out of pieces of playdough, say the number out loud. As she smashes each sphere, encourage her to count out loud.

Expand the Activity: To add a challenge to this activity, bring addition into your playdough fun. Create a + and = out of the playdough and set up a simple math equation. For example, set up the playdough numbers and symbols to say $2 + 1 =$. Under each number, have your child place the corresponding number of playdough spheres. Together, count the number of spheres. Once the three spheres have been counted, say “Two plus one equals three”. Mix and match different numbers!

