Create a Color Wheel

Explore how to mix colors by making a play dough color wheel!

Materials Needed:
Red, yellow, and blue play dough.*
Optional: Color wheel printable.
*To make your own play dough, try this recipe: www.thebestideasforkids.com/playdough-recipe/

Instructions:

**Step 1:** Roll a ball from each of the primary colors (red, yellow, and blue). If using the color wheel template, place each ball on its matching color. It is okay if the colors of the play dough and color wheel aren’t a perfect match. There are many different shades of each color!

**Step 2:** Mix secondary colors (orange, green, and violet). Roll pieces of red and yellow dough together until the two colors become orange. Do the same for yellow and blue to make green, and blue and red to make violet. Set each secondary color on your color wheel.

**Step 3:** To make tertiary colors, mix a primary color with a secondary color. For example:

red + orange = red-orange
yellow + green = yellow-green
blue + violet = blue-violet

Fill in the rest of the color wheel with tertiary colors.

Follow your child(ren)’s lead. Each child may be more or less interested in mixing different colors. Experiment at your own pace and keep it fun!

Use your rainbow play dough to make clay sculptures or other craft projects!
Color Wheel Printable

Image: Wikimedia Commons.
Explore Colors

Some materials let certain colors pass through them, and absorb other colors. These materials are called dyes or pigments. The primary colors of pigment are red, yellow, and blue. The primary colors can be mixed to create other colors.

A primary color + a primary color = a secondary color. The secondary colors are orange, green, and violet.

You can mix secondary colors with primary colors to make tertiary colors. The tertiary colors are red-orange, yellow-orange, blue-green, yellow-green, red-violet, and blue-violet.

If you were to draw a straight line across the color wheel from one color to the one directly across from it, you would find that color’s opposite. Opposite colors are called complementary colors. For example, red and green are complementary colors. Can you name any other pairs of complementary colors?