



Mud Pie Recipe Activity

Recommended: For students Kindergarten to Grade 4. Can be done inside or outside. Adult supervision recommended.

Purpose: Get your hands dirty combining elements of literacy, math, and science by making mud pies!

Materials:

- Dirt
- Water
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Paper and writing utensil
- A variety of natural materials (*dead leaves, twigs, grasses, seeds, pebbles, etc.*)
- A place for laying finished product to bake in the sun (*wooden board outside, plate in a windowsill, an actual cookie, muffin or cake tin works well.*)

How It Works:

Context: Chat about the types of things a pie requires: a combination of dry and wet ingredients, crust vs. filling, a sweetener, a binding agent, a main fruit/flavouring. This can be more or less simplified depending on the age of the student.

Step 1: Gather a wide variety of natural materials as ingredients and lay them out in one area which will be your “kitchen” for making the mud pie.

Step 2: Decide which ingredients you want to use and measure out the amount of each ingredient using the measuring cups and spoons (*for kindergarten, counting number of scoops is great, for older students precise measurements helps them learn fractions*). If the student is old enough, have them work on their spelling using a paper and pencil to keep track and write out these amounts and the order in which they are added. It can help to show them an example of an actual recipe to help them with formatting.

Step 3: Be sure to include the dirt and water and then stir it all together! Pour the mixture out to bake in the sun.

Step 4: Come back later to check on the results! Are there any improvements you would make to the recipe? Ingredients or amounts that you would change?

Extensions:

Try making two or more recipes to see how the results differ.

Practice more math by challenging your student to double the recipe or cut it in half.

If you have more than one student, have them each write out a creative recipe and then swap to see if they can follow the other's instructions step by step like you would need to do in a science class.

For students in grade 3 and 4, try making the mud pie with different types of dirt (*sand, clay, garden soil*) to learn about permeability, water retention, and other qualities of soil.