



Young children naturally build knowledge by being curious about the world around them.

International Mud Day celebrates the connection between children and nature. It began in Nepal in 2010, on a day set aside to bring children from an orphanage closer to nature. The children saw the mud and began to play in it.

Playing in and building with mud is a wonderful sensory experience and a starting point for scientific investigation.

How to get most out of your explorations:

- **Dress for the mess**
Science explorations can be messy.
- **Take your time**
Play for as long as the activity holds your child's interest. Don't rush towards the "right" answer.
- **Be curious**
Ask "what would happen if..." and then find out. Let your child's questions guide you.

Seed Bombs

Plants need water, sunlight and soil to grow. Make mud balls to deliver packages of soil and seeds to a sunny spot near you.

What you need

- Mud
- Seeds (choose the seeds of plants that are native to your area)

What to do

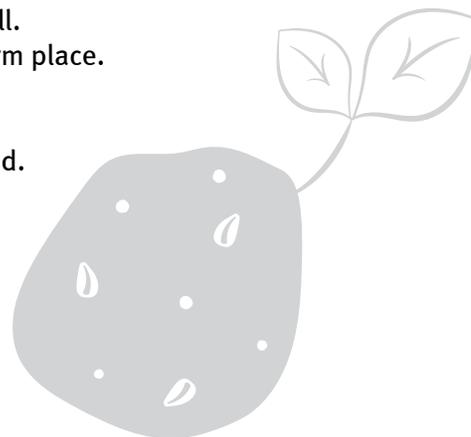
1. Squish some mud in your hands.
2. Flatten it out.
3. Place seeds in the centre.
4. Gently roll the mud up into a ball.
5. Let your seed bomb dry in a warm place.
6. Toss it into a field or garden.
7. In a week's time, visit the site to see if the seeds have sprouted.

Key Questions

- What do seeds need in order to grow?
- What makes the mud harden?
- Predict how long the seeds will take to sprout.

Extensions

- Make another seed bomb, this time with birdseed. How will the birds notice the seeds?
- Try Velcro® from the Sticky Stuff page of the BSLH resources site, to investigate how seeds travel.



Books for children

Mud by Mary Lyn Ray
(ISBN 9780152024611)

Mud Puddle by Robert Munsch

Mud Pies and Other Recipes
by Marjorie Winslow
(ISBN 9781590173688)

Charlie the Ranch Dog: Stuck in the Mud by Ree Drummond
(ISBN 9780062347749)

Mud Tacos by Mario Lopez and Marissa Lopez Wong
(ISBN 9780451227515)

Books for adults

Discovering Nature with Young Children
by Ingrid Chalufour and Karen Worth
(ISBN 9781929610389)

Growing Up Wild: Exploring Nature with Young Children from the Council for Environmental Education
(ISBN 9780615507132)

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Insect Home

Mud is fun and it's also useful! Mud can be formed and dried to make practical things. In Nepal, mud and organic matter is sometimes used to make clothing. Mud bricks or cob (mud and straw) are used around the world to build homes, fortresses and places of worship.

Use mud to build a tiny home for insects or other little creatures and find out if anything moves in!

What you need

- Dirt
- Water
- Bucket
- Shovel
- Spoons for mixing
- Sticks and other organic materials

What to do

1. Shovel dirt into a bucket.
2. Add water to make mud (not too wet).
3. Add sticks, grass or any other organic material. Mix well.
4. Decide on the location for your insect or animal home and build your creation.
5. Check the next day to see if there are any creatures living in the new home. Use a magnifying glass to help find the insects.

Key Questions

- What makes the habitat that you built a good home for insects or animals?
- Why did you choose that location?
- What makes your structure strong?
- How does your structure change over time?

Extensions

- Where else do you find tiny creatures living? Check under rocks and logs, or dig gently into the dirt.
- Learn about specific beneficial insects and how to attract them. It's not hard to make a mason bee home (see parentmap.com/article/keeping-mason-bees-10-expert-tips-for-families, for example). Mason bees also use mud to build!

Websites

scienceworld.ca/bslh-at-home

sesamestreet.org/videos?video=cd1f3098-156b-11dd-bb51-597ab51d2e81

