



Making Pea Pods



It's June down on the farm, and Tractor Ted is helping to harvest peas. With their round shapes and bright green colour, peas are easy for children to model from clay or playdough – and you can also show them how to make a pea pod.

THIS ACTIVITY...

- encourages children to explore clay and dough modelling
- allows children to explore colour mixing and creating shades of colour
- introduces the exploration of spheres, circles and semi circles
- offers the opportunity to explore counting and addition
- offers lots of opportunity for listening to and following instructions

WHAT TO DO

Before beginning the activity, have a look at some real peas and pea pods, and talk about their shape, size and colour.

Mixing up green

Explain to the children that they need to mix up lots of green paint, ready for making their peas and peapods. Give them yellow and blue paint, spoons, an empty mixing bowl and a mixing brush. Show them how to spoon a little blue and lots of yellow into the bowl and mix it up to make green.

Making peas

Show the children how to roll clay and green playdough into balls to make peas. Once the clay peas are dry, put them in a bowl, pour in green paint and stir them around with a paint brush until covered with paint. Fish them out of the bowl with a spoon and spread out to dry.

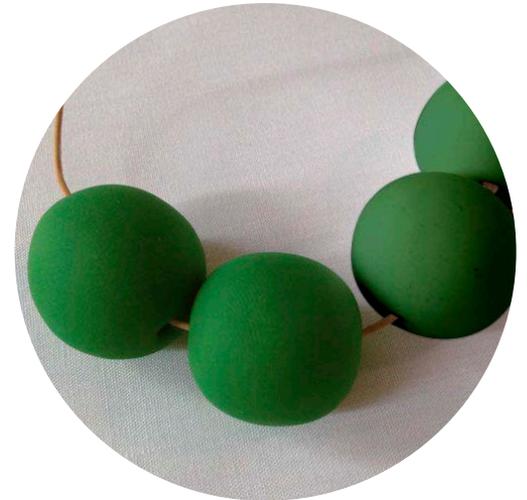
Making pea pods

Cut out several circles from thin card, ranging in diameter from nine to eighteen centimetres. Ask the children to paint the circles green on both sides, leave to dry and then fold in half. Staple the two corners at the edge of the fold to make a pocket shape. Slip the clay and playdough peas into their pea pod pockets.



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Encourage older children to mix up shades of green. Try different ratios of blue and yellow, and add tiny amounts of brown and white.
- Help the children to choose which size pea pod will go with their peas. Do they want to fill their pea pod with small peas, or pop in just a couple of large peas?
- With children who are ready, count how many peas they have made. Introduce addition by counting the peas in a pod ('one, two, three'), and then counting on as you add more: 'four, five, six – six peas in the pod!'
- Draw simple black marker pen faces on larger peas. Use the 'pea characters' for exploring emotions and playing 'hunt the pea' games.
- Make beads by carefully pushing a knitting needle through the centre of some small clay balls. Once the clay is dry, paint the beads green and thread them on cords to make 'pea necklaces'.
- Explore other ways of making peas for the pea pod. Try crumpling up green tissue paper and collecting spherical items such as green beads and marbles.



GREEN PLAYDOUGH RECIPE

Makes a ball of dough about the size of a large orange

Stir a few drops of green food colouring into half a cup of water. Mix the coloured water with one cup of plain flour, a quarter cup of salt, three teaspoons of vinegar or lemon juice and two tablespoons of vegetable oil. Cook over a low heat, stirring regularly, until the mixture forms a doughy texture. As soon as the dough is cool enough to handle, knead into a ball (the food colouring will also colour hands, so wear disposable gloves). Wrap the dough in cling film and store in an airtight tin.

