



Bumble Bees Homework.

This week is making choices and doing things ourselves...why is it so important?

Choices allow children to have some control and make their feelings clear. Start with two choices, as soon as your child indicates verbally or by making a "grab" for the item, give it to them and say the words, for example if the choice is apple or banana and they choose apple, you say "apple please" as you give it to them. Children who don't have many choices are more likely to refuse, children who don't have to choose and can get what they want don't have any reason to communicate. Choices are a good thing.

It's the same with letting children be more and more independent - how will they learn if they can't have a go. It might take longer, so start sooner. It might be messy, show them how to tidy and clean up. It might be frustrating, you are the adult, your parents let you learn. Allow your children the same pleasure of being proud, having a sense of achievement, of learning through trial and error. It will benefit them in the future, think about how resilient and strong you are as an adult, when things go wrong...you don't have a tantrum, you pick yourself up and carry on...how did you learn to do that?

Special Homework! Have a go at some of these ideas (or all if you are brave)! Take a picture, email it or Tweet it and we'll print it for you:

claire.smith@tviacademy.org
[@clairetvi](https://twitter.com/clairetvi)

- Let them choose their own clothes and then get dressed themselves.
- Make a fruit salad and talk about what you are doing and how the fruit looks and tastes. Use two or three words at a time and don't ask any questions!
- Play a short game that involves taking turns or sharing, say "my turn" and "your turn" and "wait". If you want something they have, ask using only two words at a time and hold your hand out.

So...playdough...what's the point and what do I do?

Playdough is a squashy, squeeze lump of imaginative fun that children love to create with.

It helps to build strength and stamina in fingers and wrists ready for writing.

It teaches children to use different tools carefully and effectively.

It develops language, but only if you play with them, comment on what they are doing as well as what you are doing. Don't ask too many questions! Leave little pauses for them to talk.

They can pretend to do the things they see you doing, like cooking. Give them real objects alongside the playdough, make a meal, let them "cook" for you and pretend to really love it and gobble it all up.

It can help you to develop children's listening skills, attention and concentration. Give them one instruction at a time, for example, "give me the blue cup please". Gradually over time add one more instruction and one more, "give me the blue cup and the fork please".

My biggest top tip is...relax, have fun, play and enjoy some quality time with your little ones.

Oh it's so cool!
How do I make it at home?

2 cups of plain flour in a big bowl.

Add two cups of salt, 2 table spoons of cream of tartar (helps it to stay fresh) and 4 table spoons of oil (helps it stay soft and squashy). Add two cups of boiling water straight from the kettle and stir with a wooden spoon.

With the oil you can add colour, herbs, spices, flavours, glitter anything you like. Keep in a plastic bag for up to a week or till it goes "off". Knead the dough on the table/side until its well mixed, soft and cooled. Enjoy.