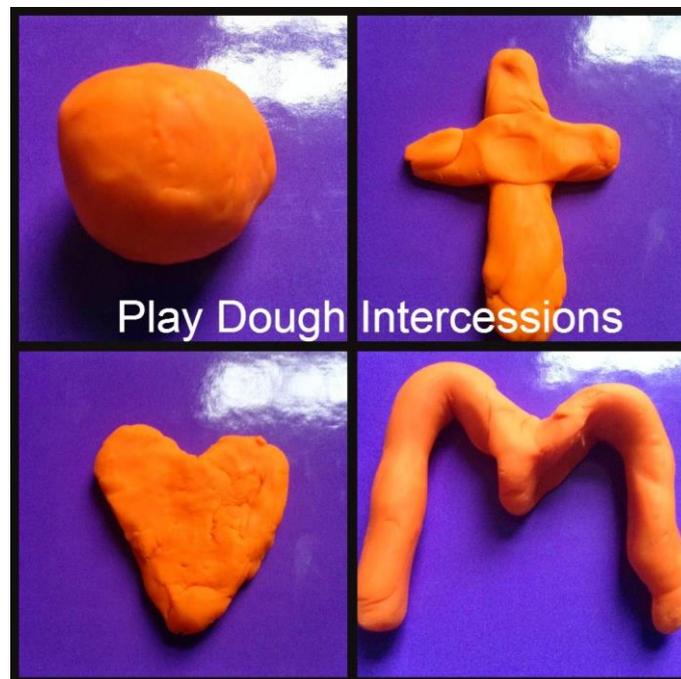


Praying as a Family with

*Playdough

Creative Play Dough Intercessions

This is an interactive idea for use in a family or with a small group of children led by an adult or a child, helping them to focus on praying for others. Below are some ideas for praying in each section, but encourage the children to add their own prayers too!



Give each child a piece of play dough.

Make the play dough into a ball.

Pray for the World. Thank God for creation. Pray for places where there is war and famine. Pray for people who care for the world.

Make the play dough into a cross

Pray for the church. Pray for Christians who are persecuted. Pray for people who lead the church. Pray for your own church. Pray that people who don't know who Jesus is will come to know Him.

Make the Play dough into a heart.

Pray for people. Pray for families and friends. Pray for people who are ill and lonely. Pray that God will help you to bless people.

Make the play dough into your name's initial letter

Pray for yourself. Ask God to bless you and to help you with the hard things. Thank God for the good things he has given you.

Play dough world map prayers



This is a very hands on and tactile way of praying!

Ask children to choose a country to pray for and give them some play dough. Put the play dough over the country on the map and mould it to fit the outline of the country, praying that God will bless the land and the people and that His kingdom will come there. In the picture, I've used a giant wall map that I didn't have to use again afterwards as the play dough can leave a sticky residue. Alternatively, you can laminate some smaller maps- maybe of different continents- and these will be able to be re-used.

Children might want to stick some sequins or plastic jewels into the play dough as a symbol of the blessing they are asking God to bring.

Have fun!

Play dough prayers

One of our most popular prayer stations is one which involves play dough. Children shape something that they want to say Thank you to God for, say 'thank you' aloud or in their heads and then either leave it on the table for others to see or they put the play dough back for the next person. It's very interesting when a group of children choose to do this together as they have some great conversations about what they're making! We've used this in the context of saying thanks for some part of God's natural creation, or just as thanks for anything that springs to mind!

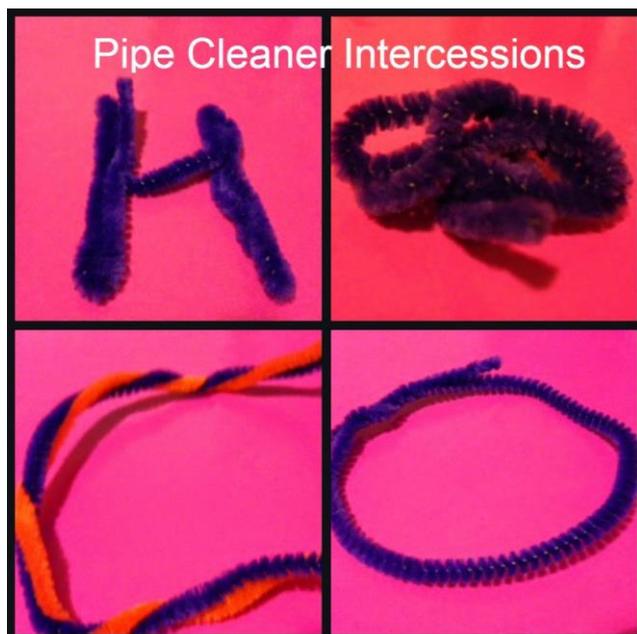
Find play dough recipes at <http://www.playdoughrecipe.org/>

*Pipe-cleaners

Pipecleaner Intercessions

I love the versatility of pipe cleaners and children seem to feel the same! They are great for playing with and they are also great for praying with...

The prayers would work well with a small group of children or in a family prayer time. Take time to talk with children about each section as you go along so that they know clearly who and what they are praying for. They will undoubtedly have lots of suggestions!



1. **Shape the pipe cleaner into an initial or a shape that stands for one of your friends.**

Hold the shape and tell God how your friend might need His help. Ask God to bless them.

2. **Screw the pipe cleaner up.**

Think about people in the world who live in confusion and don't understand what is happening to them- people who live in war torn areas, who have to leave their homes, who don't know where they will get their next meal. Hold the shape and ask God to help them.

3. **Link your pipe cleaner with someone else's.**

Think about people who are lonely- those who have no friends, family or support around them. Ask God to send them people who will be their friends.

4. **Loop the pipe cleaner around your wrist.**

Think about when God has been with you this week. Has he answered any of your prayers? If you have any prayers, ask God now. Thank God for always being with us and caring for us. Wear the pipe cleaner around your wrist as a reminder of God being with you.