Messy Play is Fun and Educational!

Your child would love to play in a bin of rice, a tub of water or with a blob of playdough (purchased or homemade) and will learn much from the experience.

Language Development

Children learn new ways of talking about the world when using different materials like sand or slime. Adults using words like grainy, bumpy, stretchy and goopy will encourage children to talk about new textures and develop language.

Fine Motor Skills

While squishing, rolling and molding playdough, children develop small muscles in their fingers and hands. The strength gained allows children to write and draw.

Cognitive Growth

When a child empties two cups of dry rice into a larger container, he begins to learn about volume. Counting how many cups of rice it takes to fill a bowl teaches number skills. Children learn to understand new concepts such as float and sink while playing with different objects in water.

Messy sensory play is a powerful learning tool. Try making playdough with your child or purchase some (homemade) and will learn much from the experience.

We incorporate sensory experiences into many of our Library programs such as Little Me, Terrific Twos and Preschool Story Time. Some programs are entirely filled with sensory-based play time such as Little Explorers and Messy Monday! Come have fun with us!

A Favorite Playdough Recipe

Mix in medium pan:

1 cup white flour
1/4 cup salt
2 Tbsp cream of tartar

Add:
1 cup water
1 Tbsp oil

optional food coloring

Cook over medium heat for 3-5 minutes, stirring constantly. It will look like a gloppy mess! Stir until everything comes together in a ball. After it cools for a bit, knead on a floured surface until smooth. Store in an air-tight container/zip-lock bag.

If playdough gets in carpet, let dry and then scrape and vacuum bits away!

Optional Food Coloring

Measure 1 cup cornstarch in container add 1/2 cup water slowly. Keep stirring until well mixed. Grab a handful—feel how hard it can be—then open your hand and watch it ooze! Is this substance a liquid or a solid?!

Fair Dough/ Dinosaur Dough/ Snow Dough

2 1/2 cups cornstarch
1 cup hair conditioner
Food coloring, optional

Measure cornstarch into bowl and add conditioner (and food coloring and/or glitter, if you choose). Stir together and then turn it out onto a plate. Knead the dough until smooth. If it is too dry, add a bit more conditioner. Too runny—add more cornstarch.

Play with cute little toys or cookie cutters with this dough!

Complete information about events is available on our website: farmlib.org/events
Or stop by to pick up promotional materials. For more information call (248) 848-4315 or (248) 473-3118
Main Library
32737 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 848-4315

Puppet Show: Jojo Fish and the Magic Pearl
Ages 4 and up
Registration required: (248) 848-4315
Eugene Clark and his puppets will perform a fun-filled puppet show with lots of audience participation.
Tuesday, April 2, 2 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium

Build a Bristle Bot
Ages 5 and up
Registration required: (248) 848-4315
We will supply materials for you to make a bot to race or move in a maze.
Thursday, April 4, 2 p.m.
Main Library Children’s Program Room

Hands-On STEAM
Build with PlayStix, Engineering and Design sets, Magnetic Creation Station, Magnetic Tiles, LEGO, Straws and Connectors, and more. Test your skills with the Gravity Maze. Design with Roominate and GoldieBlox. Develop logic with RushHour, or KEVA with the Gravity Maze. Design with Roominate and Magna-Tiles, LEGO, Build with Playstix, Engineering and Design sets. Registration required; (248) 848-4315
Ages 5 and up
Main Library Children’s Program Room

Homeschool Explorations
All ages
Come explore Springtime Fun with fellow homeschoolers.
Monday, April 8, 1 p.m.
Main Library Children’s Program Room

Teddy Bear Picnic: A 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Celebration
Ages birth to Pre-K
Join us for a fun, bear-themed story time followed by playtime, crafts and a treat! Celebrate how many books you have read or sign up to participate in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Remember to bring your favorite teddy bear (or other stuffed animal!)
Saturday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.
Main Library Auditorium

Sensory-Friendly Story Time
Ages 4-6
Registration required: (248) 848-4315
This Story Time engages the senses and is followed by more opportunities for sensory exploration and playtime. This program is designed for children of all ages with developmental delays, on the autism spectrum, or other special needs and their siblings, and parents/caregivers.
Saturday, May 18, 10:30 a.m.
Main Library Children’s Program Room

Pajama Story Time
Ages 2-5
Snuggle together and enjoy stories, rhymes and songs. Children are invited to wear comfy pajamas and bring along a stuffed animal, blanket, or both.
Tuesday, May 21, 7 p.m.
Main Library Children’s Program Room

Fresh Thyme Story Time
All ages
Come join us for stories, songs, and finger plays at Fresh Thyme Market.
Fridays, April 12; May 10, 10:30 a.m.
Main Library Children’s Program Room

C.A.R.E.S. Story Time
Babies to Pre-K
Join us at C.A.R.E.S. for an interactive story time and activities afterward.
Fridays, April 19; May 3, 17, 9:30 a.m.
C.A.R.E.S.: 27835 Shiawassee Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Story Time by the Splash Pad
Ages 3-6
Enjoy the fresh air and a story! Meet us on the new Discovery Trail near the Splash Pad at Heritage Park for stories, rhymes, and movement. Stay and play with our outdoor toys, enjoy the Discovery Trail, or bring your swimsuit and hang on over to the Splash Pad for some water fun.
Tuesdays, May 28; June 4, 11, 10:30 a.m.
Heritage Park Discovery Trail

Farmington Branch
23500 Liberty Street, Farmington, MI 48335 (248) 473-3118

Family Picnic Movie Night
All ages
Bring your blanket and a picnic dinner and enjoy Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation (PG, 97 min.)
Monday, April 1, 6:30 p.m.
Farmington Branch Meeting Room

Ready, Set, Go!
Ages 5-9
Get moving and groove with physical challenges!
Tuesday, April 2, 2 p.m.
Farmington Branch Meeting Room

Dash and Dot
Ages 9-12
Registration required: (248) 473-3119
Learn how to program Dash and Dot. Make these robots follow a path, dance, light up or create some noise.
Friday, April 5, 2 p.m.
Farmington Branch Meeting Room

Toilet Training Basics
A Parent Only Workshop
Registration required: contact Sue McIntyre at susan.mcintyre@oakland.k12.mi.us or call (248) 209-2520.
Teaching your child to use the toilet takes time, understanding and patience. Choosing the right time to start, recognizing the signs of readiness and the procedures to follow can be confusing. This presentation will provide an overview of toilet training and offer some helpful tips to use when toilet training your child.
Thursday, May 2, 7 p.m.
Farmington Branch Meeting Room

Body Safety
Ages 3-5 with parents
Empower kids to "be the boss" of their own bodies and teach them how to protect themselves in different situations. An overview of common child safety concerns will be shared. This program is being presented by Care House of Oakland County, whose vision is to impact the safety of every child in Oakland County.
Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 p.m.
Farmington Branch Meeting Room