

Clay Characters & Story Time!

Materials Needed:

- Air Dry Clay
- A simple picture book with clear characters (e.g., 'The Three Little Pigs', 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', or a book with animal characters)
- Rolling pin (optional, child-safe)
- Plastic clay tools or popsicle sticks (optional, child-safe)
- A flat surface or mat to work on
- Letter flashcards (optional)

Let's Get Started! (Approx. 30-45 mins)

1. Story Time (10 mins):

Snuggle up and read the chosen picture book together. Read slowly and clearly. Point out the main characters and talk about what happens first, next, and last in the story. Ask simple questions like, "Who is this?" and "What are they doing?"

2. Letter & Sound Fun (5 mins):

Let's focus on the characters! If reading 'The Three Little Pigs', say "Pig starts with the letter P! What sound does P make? P-p-p." Show the letter 'P' (using a flashcard if you have one). You can do this for other main characters or objects (e.g., 'W' for Wolf, 'B' for Bear).

3. Clay Creations (15-20 mins):

Now for the super fun part! Get out the air dry clay. Say, "Let's make the characters from our story using clay!" Guide your student to make simple shapes representing the characters or key objects. Encourage rolling, squishing, and shaping. While they create, reinforce the letter sounds: "You're making the Pig! Remember, P-p-pig!" Keep it simple – focus on basic forms rather than perfect details.

4. Story Retelling with Clay (5-10 mins):

Once the main characters/objects are made (they don't need to be dry), use them as puppets! Ask your student to retell the story using their clay figures. Prompt them: "Okay, who came first in the story? Show me with your clay!" "What happened next?" Help them sequence the events using their creations as visual aids.

Wrap-up:

Great job reading and creating today! Look at the wonderful story characters you made with clay. You did a fantastic job remembering the story and the letter sounds!

Optional Extension:

Write simple words from the story (pig, sun, wolf, run) on small pieces of paper. Help your child sound out the words and match their clay creations to the correct word.