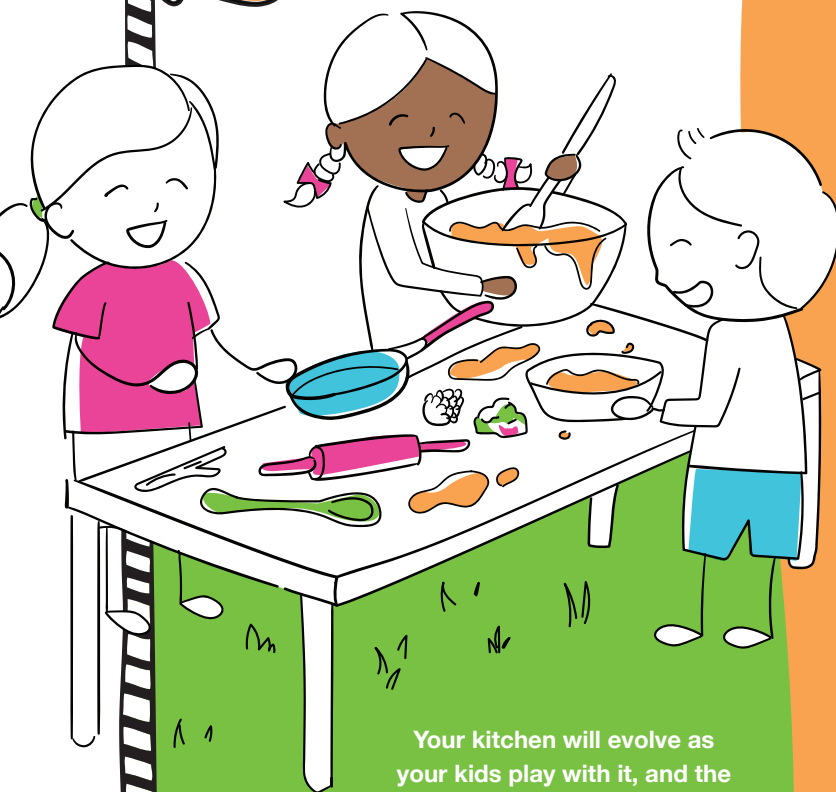




LET'S MAKE A MUD KITCHEN

A play kitchen offers open-ended, kid-led, free play. Play can be done independently, alongside other kids, or with adult support. A play kitchen outside, with mud and other natural elements, gives kids additional textures to experience, a never-ending variety of “ingredients” to use, and the freedom to get dirty and make a mess.

Your mud kitchen can be as simple as a table, some water, and a bowl or two. Your kids will find grass, flowers, dirt, and so much more to cook with.



Your kitchen will evolve as your kids play with it, and the ways they play will evolve, too. Different seasons will change their play, and the addition or rotation of cookware will keep things interesting. The learning and creativity that comes with a mud kitchen is endless!

COOKWARE

- 1 Old pots, pans, spoons, spatulas, cutting boards, plates and cups, colanders, and measuring cups are great to create with.
- 2 Pitchers for pouring and buckets for mixing are great, too! So are muffin tins and cookie sheets.

LOOSE PARTS

- 1 These can truly be anything: shells, rocks, sticks, pinecones, pebbles, wood chips, glass beads, etc.
- 2 Loose parts play gives kids opportunity to be creative as they engage with the different pieces – arranging them, tinkering, and imagining with them. It's also great for sensory and motor skills development.

STORAGE

- 1 Baskets, Tupperware, jars, bins, or crates will keep loose parts and other kitchenware collected for continued use.
- 2 Built-in storage such as shelves and hooks for hanging pots can help with organization.

PERSONAL TOUCHES

- 1 Paint some rocks to look like food, or paint a sign with your kids' names on it.
- 2 Add places to sit to the area or additional structures, like a stovepot on a tree stump!