



## Introducing Clay

- 1) Introduce the clay to the children as you play with a ball in your hands.
- 2) Ask, "What do you think this is?"
- 3) Describe how clay comes from the earth and is made up from very tiny rocks. Explain how the rocks have been made smaller by water over thousands of years and that the clay they are using was made around the time of the dinosaurs.
- 4) As the excitement builds, show them where and how the clay will be kept after they are done using it. When they are ready to work with the clay, give them a board and a ball.
- 5) Let them explore. Ask them how it feels. Encourage them to pound, tear, smooth, pull, push, build, and poke the clay. Children need plenty of time to explore clay to understand its qualities. No tools are necessary at first, since hands are the best tools.
- 6) Once they are finished exploring, teach them how they can reuse the clay by forming it into a ball, adding water and returning it to the plastic lined bucket. After all the clay has been returned, sprinkle water over it to add moisture back into the clay, cover with the remaining plastic, and place the lid on the bucket.