

**Activity:** Muddy Faces

**Kit needed:** a trowel or small spade, a bucket, water, natural materials for decoration

**Group/ family size:** 1+

**Age Group:** 2+

**Location:** this can be done in the garden, local park or woodland, anywhere with a surface mud will stick to (preferably a tree)

**Learning about:** art, science, water, mud

**Instructions:**

As a family use your trowels to collect mud in your buckets, add water then mix it up using your hands until it has a gloopy and sticky consistency, check if it is sticking to the sides of the bucket and your hands this may take a couple of attempts and playing around with water to mud ratios, once it starts to stick then it's ready.

Now find a surface preferably a tree that you can stick the mix to and use your hands get creating, you can choose what to turn your mixture into, a human face? A monster? An animal?

You can use natural objects as features for your faces; nuts for a nose, stones for eyes, feathers or leaves for hair. Remember to take a picture of or draw your creation so it can be included in a story later.

**Additional comments:**

This is a great opportunity for children use their senses, get mucky and learn about textures and ratios.

When you are digging for mud please avoid private property/ land unless you have the landowner's permission. Safe exposure to natural organisms has been proven to aid the development of children's immune systems, but watch out for stinging insects, brambles and nettles, be careful not to disturb wildlife or destroy habitats.

