



A43



20-25 minutes

## SEVEN PLASTICINE DWARFS



To introduce the skill of figurative modelling  
To model a human body in different positions  
To develop the ability to recognise details



- ❖ The story of 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' (available on the internet if you don't have a book of it)
- ❖ A video clip of the 'Heigh-Ho' song of the Seven Dwarfs going home from work - available on YouTube
- ❖ Plasticine or similar modelling material - 8 strips or balls per child and 1 for you, and some extra for any additions your child might want to make
- ❖ Board for modelling on and a simple tool for cutting/shaping the plasticine (per child)
- ❖ A couple of wooden or plastic blocks - a brick or cuboid to be a bed and a cube or small cylinder to be a stool



Start by asking your child to stand in front of you, in a 'normal' standing position. Explain that they are going to be an artist's model for a couple of minutes - this means that they need to stand quite still while you do your artwork. Explain that you are going to make a simple model of them out of plasticine.

Warm your strip of plasticine up, and roll it into an oblong shape. Start by commenting on the different positions of each of your child's main body parts and limbs in turn, and while you are doing that for each, make a model of a person in the same position as your child from a single piece of plasticine. Show them how to squeeze the plasticine to form the neck, press the top part in different places to make the head more rounded, how to gently pinch out and shape the plasticine to make small ears, how to cut gently down the middle of the bottom half to separate it into two legs and so on.

Now ask your child to copy the way you did it and make their own plasticine person. You can model for them, if they want you too, and/or and help them as necessary.

Now read the story of 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' to your child. When you get to the part where they are coming home from work, put on the clip from the film of the 'Heigh Ho' song. Discuss the different dwarfs - Dopey, Sneezy, Happy, Grumpy, Doc, Bashful and Sleepy - and ask your child to imagine a scene when they have just come home to see Snow White and are in varied poses, that they will create with plasticine in a minute. For example, Sleepy lying down, another dwarf standing, one sitting, one walking, one listening with a hand to one ear, one bending to pick up a flower and one holding out a hand to give something to Snow White.

Ask your child to act out each of those poses with you, one at a time. While they do each one, draw their attention to how the position of their limbs vary, explaining that this will help them create figures in those poses.

Choose one of those poses, and show your child how to make a model of it. Talk about it as you do it. Then repeat this for the other six dwarfs' poses from the scene that your child imagined. Help them with their technique if necessary, so that each figure is different and their pose is clear. Have your child have the sitting figure on a cube or cylinder as a stool and the sleeping figure lying down on your brick or cuboid. Offer your child to add any other objects or pieces of plasticine that they want to, to complete the scene.

To end the activity, you could finish the story and allow your child time to play with the figures they have created as if they were the dwarfs, or act out the story if they wish.



Your child can make a scene of seven figures in plasticine based on the seven dwarfs in different poses.

