



# THE HONEYCOMB HYPOTHESIS

## Designing Environments

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The Honeycomb Hypothesis uses the honeybee and its behavior movements to help us understand how young children learn.



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### USING CLAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO PRACTICE

Clay is an element of the earth and, therefore, is a perfect medium for young children's play. Clay offers a direct connection with nature and is an enticing and delicious material to handle and manipulative. It is cool to the touch and moves easily beneath children's touch. Because texture is a gentle teacher, children learn about the clay's properties through interacting with the properties. Be sure to use authentic clay rather than playdough or artificial clay.

#### **Playing with clay offers many opportunities to practice the Patterns of Play**

##### **Making & Unmaking**

Children roll, pat, and construct the clay only to smash, poke, and separate it when they practice the Pattern of Play of Making & Unmaking.

##### **Attaching & Detaching**

Children repeat transforming actions such as pulling apart and undoing immediately after they have intentionally piled, stacked, and joined the pieces of clay together.

**A Fun Idea:** Purchase a large lump of clay and place it on the floor or old tablecloth. Let children touch, explore, and experiment its uniqueness—with their hands, elbows, knees, toes, and feet.



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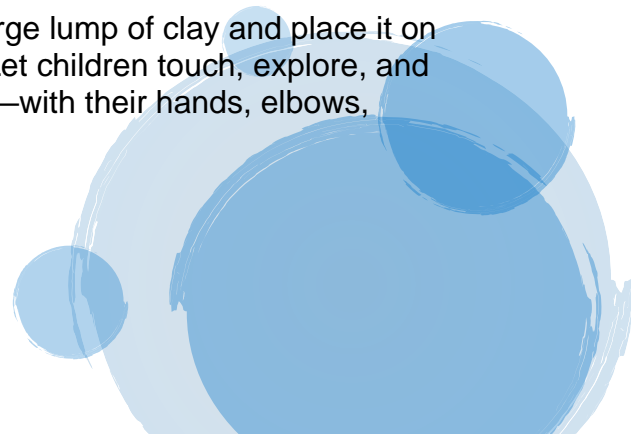
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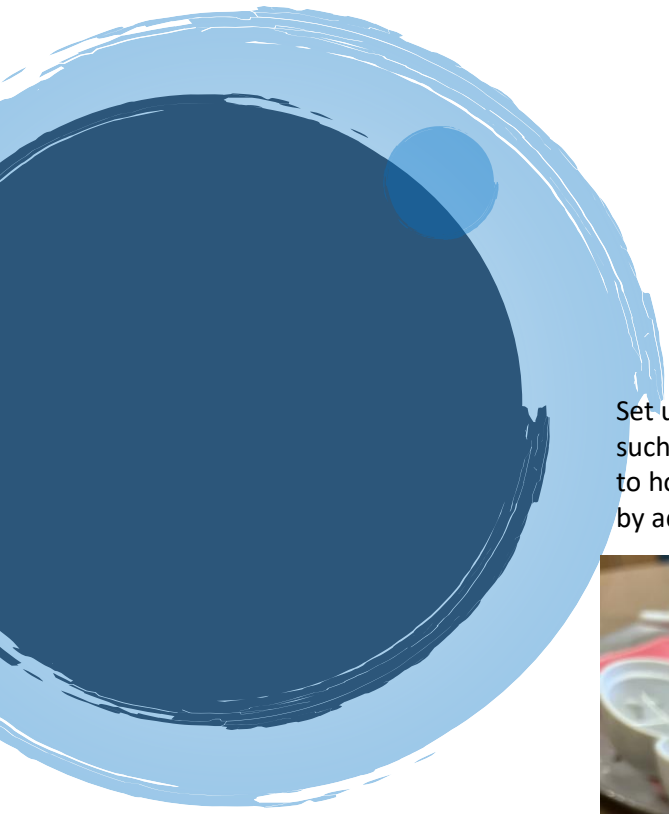


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Set up a clay experience with small wood boards and wooden tools such as rolling pins or utensils. Perhaps use a baking sheet with edges to hold the clay. Add a muffin tin for some visual and textural variety by adding grass clippings and fresh basil, rosemary, or mint.

