

# WiggleKids

## WiggleTips

**Putty:** There are SO many kinds of putty out there – and while typically banned from the classroom, putty is a wonderful tool you can use to work on fine motor skills, strength, grip, grasp and dexterity. It is also a non-gooey/non-sticky tactile play item for kids who are sensitive to tactile input. Always start by having the child squeeze and stretch out the putty to warm-it (and their little hands) up!

Our Occupational Therapist has put together 3 fun activities to try with putty!

### The Penny Game!

Start by hiding 4 or 5 pennies in amongst the putty. To do this, have the child use their tripod grasp fingers (thumb and first 2 fingers) to push a penny into the putty. Once all the coins are placed inside the putty squeeze and manipulate it so that the coins are hidden inside. Now it's the child's turn to stretch, pull and pinch the putty to find the coins. Once they find the coin have them deposit it into a piggy bank or other small receptacle. This last step also works on a pincer grasp. You can also hide other small items in the putty for your child to find.

### Cut up the Snake

Have the child use both hands to roll out the putty into a long thin snake. Coordinated use of both hands is an important skill for good bilateral integration. Bring out a child-safe pair of scissors and have the child cut up the snake into small pieces! The putty gives good resistance against the snip of the scissors to give extra feedback and hand strengthening.

### Copy Me

Split the putty into 2 equal balls (or use two separate tins of putty). Make a shape and have the child copy your design. This works on visual motor and visual perception skills too. You can make small balls using the tripod grasp fingers (make it fun by pretending they are dinosaur eggs and place them in the 'dinosaur nest. '), or roll the putty into a long strand and then curl it up to look like a snail. Use your imagination!



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