

# Explore Tools

Play and discover how tools can be used in different ways!

Materials Needed: Clay or Play-Doh, water, a variety of age-appropriate tools (popsicle sticks, crayons, cups, sponges, pipettes, paintbrushes, straws, string, etc.)

**Caution: Closely supervise children when using tools.**

Activities are intended to be done together with a group!

Imagine: How can these materials be used as tools?

Create: Use the tools to shape clay, paint, draw, or build something.

Experiment: Can you use these tools in a new or an unexpected way?

Discover: Look for tools around your home. What are they used for?

## Who Uses Tools?

We do!

Tools come in all shapes and sizes. We use them for almost

everything we do. Humans (*Homo sapiens*) have used tools

since they first walked on Earth hundreds of thousands of years ago.

stone tool.

Image: Michael D. Gumert

A crow uses a stick tool to reach food.

Image: Mick Sibley.

An octopus uses shells as a shield and can carry them around for future use.

Image: Nick Hobgood.