

**Title:**

**How to Make Dirt**

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**Overall Goal:**

The goal of this demonstration is to provide a fun-filled and educational activity parents and children can enjoy together. In this case, the activity is making a delicious dessert called “dirt”. Ideally, the children will enjoy this activity and want to take it home and do it with their parent(s) and/or family.

**Rationale:**

As civilization has evolved over time, partially because of technology, so has the structure and psyche of today’s family, its dynamics, and what it takes to raise a child. Typically, both parents work, sometimes to accommodate a certain type of lifestyle, other times just to make ends meet. Children are in daycare for a good portion of time before they reach school age, and after school once they have reached school age. The world in general moves at a significantly faster pace than it did 20 years ago, and with greater pressure, competition, and expense. The divorce/single parent rate is higher than ever before. This is not to say the world has gone bad, only that it has changed. People, specifically parents and educators, need to recognize these changes and provide applicable lessons, balance, and time for this generation of children.

This simple activity of making “dirt” provides a fun, simple, inexpensive way for parents and children to spend time together. It reinforces that life can still be simple, does not always need to involve the Internet, cell phones, or other technologies, and does not need to go at 100 mph all the time. Young children especially tend to look for that quality time with just them and mom and dad. Children also have a need for accomplishment. This activity, and other similar activities, provides that bonding time with an end product that everyone can enjoy. Young children can and will take pride in their accomplishment. “Dirt” provides an activity that is easy on parents, enjoyable, and an opportunity for bonding or an important conversation. Lastly, making “dirt” is an activity that knows no socioeconomic boundaries.

**Target Audience:**

▶ *General Description*

The beauty of this activity is that it is so simple that it really can be applied to any audience – parents, teachers, or children. The physical demonstration could be viewed by any of these audiences separately or together. This particular demonstration/handout combination assumes an audience of young children, specifically 2<sup>nd</sup> graders (7 and 8 year olds). The idea is for the students to enjoy this activity and want to take it home and want to do it with their parent(s). This is a typical second grade class with an equal mix of students from all different types of cultural and economic backgrounds. The class is about 55/45 split, the majority being boys. Several students are English Second Language students.

▶ *Strengths*

The students of this class are very eager. They take interest in most activities, both academic and athletic. The class gets along well for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, and the students like to work together and help each other.

▶ *Weaknesses*

This class borders on hyperactive and can get out of control in a hurry. Several students are English Second Language students. There are three distinct learning paces to this class. About a fourth of the class learns very quickly, wanting to work fast and move ahead. One-half the class learns at the same pace, average for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. The rest of the class has a bit of trouble, and learns at a slightly slower pace than the rest of the class. The class loses a bit of energy toward the last quarter of the day.

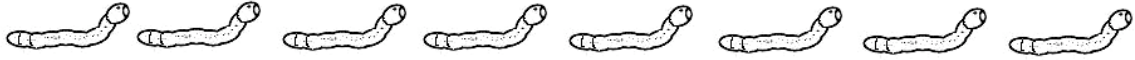
▶ *Areas of Potential Difficulty*

Keeping the students at the same pace/level could be an area of potential difficulty, as could keeping them in their seats and under control and out of the pudding and cookies. If the students know about the demonstration ahead of time, getting them through the previous lesson could be difficult.

▶ *Strategies*

1. Clear, simple speech using small, familiar words.
2. Clearly identify the ingredients with pictures.
3. Group the students appropriately so that they can assist each other.
4. Make sure this is the first 2<sup>nd</sup> grade section to go through the demonstration
5. Make the demonstration a surprise at the end of the day.
6. Play the demonstration before giving the students the ingredients.

# How to Make Dirt



## Ingredients:

- 1 Package Oreo Cookies
- 8 oz. Cream Cheese
- cup sugar
- 1    cups Milk
- 1 Small Box Instant Vanilla Pudding
- 1 tsp. Vanilla Extract
- 16 oz. Cool Whip
- 1 Package of your favorite Gummy Worms

## Materials:

- 1 Large Mixing Bowl
- 1 Small Mixing Bowl
- 1 Rubber Spatula and/or Wisk
- 1 Cool flower pot, bucket, or serving bowl (make sure it's clean)
- Blender (Optional)

## Instructions:

- In small mixing bowl, mix sugar and cream cheese. Then set aside.
- In blender, or by hand, crumble the Oreo Cookies to make the "dirt".
- In large mixing bowl, mix vanilla pudding, milk, vanilla extract, and Cool Whip. Mix until nice and smooth and there are no lumps.
- Add in the cream cheese mixture and mix well.
- In the flower pot cover the bottom with crumbled Oreos, add a few Gummy worms on top of it, and then cover it with some of pudding mixture to make a layer. Keep adding layers until your pot is full.
- If you want, get creative and decorate the top of the pot with flowers that you can eat, more worms, or other cool "eatables".
- Chill for at least 1 hour before serving. Serves at least 8.

