

Adders are Amazing! Gwiberod Gwych!

3. CLAY ADDERS

INTRODUCTION

A great tactile activity for younger, and even older, children. Most children enjoy squishing and moulding clay. This activity also helps them firm up their ID skills by reinforcing the shape of the snake and the adder back pattern, and gives them something lovely to take away and decorate in their own time. Very simple and inexpensive, but very effective!

MATERIALS:

- Air drying clay – white for males or terracotta for females and babies. We used DAS modelling clay (see 'Resources')
- Glue spreaders or other modelling tools
- Small finger bowls with water
- Paper plates for labelling snakes and transporting

MAKE IT!

1 Hand out snake sized lumps of modelling clay. Ask the children not to play with it until everyone is ready as it can readily dry out in warm hands.

2 Ask the children to start by squishing up the clay as hard as they can, to warm and soften it up and break up air pockets. This can be difficult for little ones. Ask adult helpers to get involved. Add water if the clay dries or cracks.



MAKE IT!

- 3** When the clay becomes malleable, ask the children to roll it into a snake shape. If they are not sure how, demonstrate this to them. Tell them not to rush this step as the snakes are fragile.



- 4** Mould the head and shape the tail. Flatten it slightly. Rub any cracks that emerge, using a little water from the finger bowl.



- 5** Using a glue spreader or similar tool, make a 'V' shape on the back of the snake's head, eyes and a zig-zag pattern along the spine. Add side markings.



- 6** Try making a smaller adder to keep it company! Put both to dry on a paper plate, labelled with the child's name to take home. They can decorate them themselves using felt tips or paints and PVA glue for a shiny finish when dry.

