

# A Tinker Tray Play Guide to Tinker Trays

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## What is a Tinker Tray?

A Tinker Tray contains a selection of items that can be used as part of open-ended loose part play. They provide a child with interesting objects and pieces they can 'tinker' with. The possibilities for play are as limitless as their imaginations.



## How do we play with a Tinker Tray?

There is no right or wrong way to play with a Tinker Tray. Children can use the parts in a multitude of different ways dependent upon how it has captured their interest or imaginations. The joy of a tray is that it can be reused for so many different activities and it's parts can be combined with other materials to enhance their use too; play dough for example, or a sand tray, water dish or a reflective mirrored surface.



## Here are some of my favourite ideas for Tinker Tray play

- Add to play dough
- Create a Mandala
- Make some transient art
- Use to make a self portrait
- Make a collage
- Add to a sand tray
- Add to a water bowl (if appropriate)
- Add to a reflective mirrored surface
- Use an empty picture frame to make art
- Use to practice writing
- Can be used for counting and sorting



## What will children learn from a Tinker Tray?

- Creativity
- Independence, choosing how to play
- Decision making, choosing materials
- Gives access to different media and materials