

# color word

## PLAY DOUGH MATS

Hands-on Mats for 11 Colors | Real Objects | Fine Motor Fun



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# Introduction

Build Color Recognition and Fine Motor Skills with These Engaging Color Word Play Dough Mats!

These mats are designed to help children develop color word knowledge, strengthen fine motor skills, and practice early literacy concepts in a hands-on, playful way.

Each mat focuses on one color and features:

- A large color word for children to build using play dough
- A bright border and heading to match the target color
- Real-world object images that clearly represent the color
- Opportunities for oral language, sorting, and matching activities

Whether you're introducing color words for the first time or reviewing them with emerging readers, these mats are a versatile and engaging addition to your literacy or fine motor centers.

## How to Use in Centers

These mats are ideal for play dough stations, literacy corners, or small-group activities. Here's how you can use them:

1. **Build the word:** Invite children to roll long play dough "snakes" and form each letter of the color word. As they shape each letter, encourage them to say the letter name or the whole word (e.g., "Red!").
2. **Talk about the pictures:** Ask children to name the objects and discuss how they all share the same color. This builds oral language and vocabulary (e.g., "The apple is red. The crab is red too!").

3. **Trace the word:** (Optional) Place the mats inside dry-erase pockets. Children can trace over the color word with a dry-erase marker for additional handwriting practice.

4. **Use for sorting or games:** These mats can also be used in other creative ways:

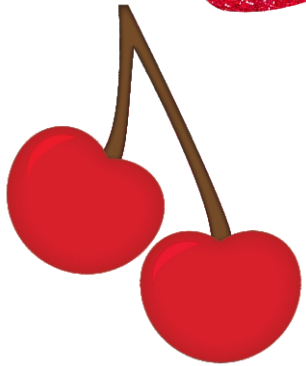
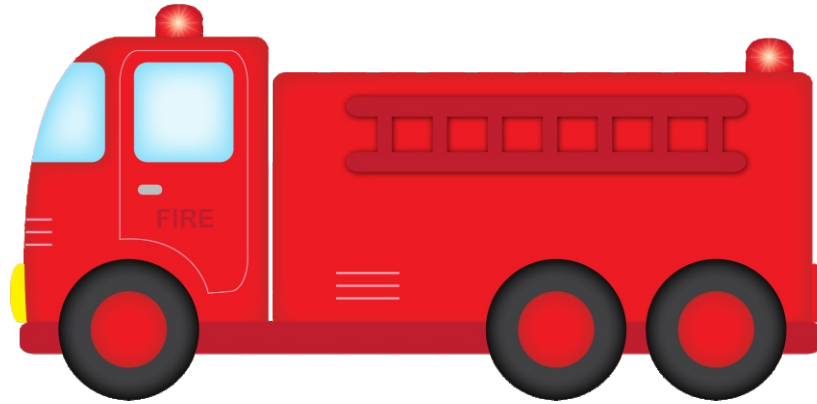
- Color sorting game: Provide small colored objects (buttons, counters, pom-poms) and ask children to place matching items on the correct color mat.
- Find the pair game: Print two sets of mats to play a matching game! Place them face-down, and children flip two at a time to find a match. The player with the most matches wins!

## Why These Mats Are So Effective

- Reinforce color recognition through visual repetition
- Support early letter formation and fine motor development
- Encourage language-rich discussions about familiar objects
- Offer multi-sensory learning through play dough, tracing, and speaking
- Simple, no-prep format that's easy to reuse again and again

Print on thick card and laminate for durability. Store in your play dough center or literacy tubs for easy access all year long.

Happy Teaching! :)



red

