

## Mathematical moments with 5- and 6-year-olds: Measuring ingredients for a simple recipe



Elaine noticed that one child had found some 'Bluetack' and was playing with it. She asked if the children would like to make some salt dough? They wrote and printed a recipe and collected the ingredients.

The children worked in pairs to follow this simple recipe:

2 cups of flour

1 cup of salt

1 cup of water

As they made the dough, there was talk about *full*, *nearly full* and *half full*. The children used their hands to combine the ingredients. When it was too dry Elaine wondered what the children needed to do. Sarah suggested adding water. They discussed how much water to add and what would happen if too much was added. Elaine modelled using pipettes to add water and then colour, drop by drop. They counted in the drops of water and colour to make their dough 'just right'.



Acknowledgments: Elaine Bennet and Esther O'Connor (photo)