

At Home Excavation

Materials

- Trowels & paint brushes (optional)
- MOST's salt dough recipe (2 cups of flour, 1 cup salt, 1 cup cold water)
- Food coloring (optional)

- Cornstarch
- Water
- Bowls
- Refer to the MOST's salt dough recipe, linked above. Allow yourself enough time to make and cook the salt dough, about 30–40 minutes for prep and 2 hours for baking.
- Before baking, shape your salt dough into dinosaur bones. To further test your kids's knowledge of paleontology, try making them into different body parts (ribs, teeth, claws, etc.). For added fun you even use food coloring to make the salt dough appear older.
- When you have finished making and baking your "dinosaur bones", you can either bury them in a sandbox or make oobleck so that your kids can have fun breaking up the hardened plaster to find dinosaur bones.
- If you choose to make oobleck to bury your bones in, you will need a 2:1 ratio of cornstarch and water. The amount depends on how big of a container you will be using to hold the oobleck. If your oobleck is too watery, add more cornstarch and vice versa if the concoction is too dry.
- Once you have fully mixed the cornstarch and water, press your dinosaur bones deep into the mixture so that they are buried completely. Then allow the oobleck to dry in the sun for a day or two.
- The oobleck will begin to crack when it is done drying. Take it inside and allow your kids to have fun cracking it open to find dinosaur bones! If you opted to use sand, let your kids dig around to find the bones. You may want to provide them trowels or paint brushes to have a true immersive experience.
- Don't forget to ask your kids what each bone might be. What kind of dinosaur do they think the bones belonged to? Encourage them to think about what the dinosaur might have looked like, how big or small it was, or what kind of diet the dinosaur had.