“Silly Putty”

Objective:

Everyone loves Silly Putty! This experiment teaches chemical reactions and how two different materials combine to make a certain type of chemical bond.

For each student:

- 1 Zip Lock Bag
- 1 Tablespoon of Borax water mixture
- 1 Tablespoon of Glue
- 1 Tablespoon of Water
- Food coloring

Steps:

Prep work:
Add 1 tablespoon of Borax powder to 1 cup of water. Stir until most of the powder dissolves.

How to make Silly Putty:

1. Prepare Glue:
    a. Measure 1 tablespoon of Elmer's Glue into a zipper-lock bag
    b. Add 1 tablespoon of plain water to the bag and mix. The additional water makes the glue flow better.
    c. Add a drop of food coloring to make it look nicer.
2. Make the Putty
    a. Add just 1 tablespoon of borax water to the bag of watered-down glue.
    b. Seal the bag, and squeeze it between your fingers for 2 minutes, in order to thoroughly mix the liquids. The liquids will start to form a putty-like substance. When this has happened, remove the putty from the bag and continue to squeeze it.

Tip on Quantity of materials for 16 students:

1 cup of borax water solution prepares silly putty for 16 students.
1/3 cup of plain water is required to add to the glue.
8 fluid oz. of Elmer’s white glue is needed for 16 tablespoons of glue.

(adapted from SWE-MN activity)