

Homemade shrinky dinks

As a child, I have very fond memories of making shrinky dinks. You could buy them as a kit and colour them in, put



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them in the oven and they would shrink down amazingly! I used to be fascinated watching them. For my girls craft birthday party, they made shrinky dinks too and loved it, so I thought, how about a homemade version.

What you need for homemade shrinky dinks:

1. Plastic - you need recyclable plastic, the foamy sort is good or ones with recycle number 5 or 6. I used the tray a pizza came on and a tub of liquitabs
2. Permanent markers
3. Scissors
4. Foil
5. Baking tray
6. Cornflour

How to make shrinky dinks:

1. Cut the plastic to the shape you want. You need it to be fairly large as it will shrink down.
2. Colour or draw whatever you want on the plastic with permanent markers.
3. Place your finished plastic on a baking tray with foil on, sprinkled with a little corn flour.
4. Put it in the oven at 180 degrees for approximately 1-3 mins. You have to watch it, for when you think it's done, as all plastic and sizes take a slightly different length of time.
5. When you have removed it from the oven, you may need to flatten it while it's still hot (carefully please, I don't want any burns), as it does sometimes curl.

Hand shrinky dinks

We thought it would be nice to make shrinky dinks of our hands, so Nana drew round each of the children's hands onto the foamy plastic (from our pizza base packaging), using permanent markers.



Next, they all got colouring and decorating their hands. They loved drawing on and painting their nails. They added a watch on and BB wrote his name.

Once, they were all satisfied with their hands, we cut them out.



We placed the hands on foil sprinkled with cornflour, onto a baking tray and put them in the oven for approx 2 mins.



The children loved watching them shrink in the oven. It was so fascinating to watch. They got quite excited, especially when they started curling up.



Once they appeared to stop shrinking, we took them out and carefully tried to flatten them.



I think they look quite good. The children thought they were fantastic, so we took a photo of their shrinky dink hand next to their own hand to show how much the plastic shrunk.



We all enjoyed making these, so we thought we'd have a try at some more with a different type of

plastic



Some of the plastic worked better than others, some curled more than others, but we all had fun trying. It was definitely a fantastic activity to experiment with and the children loved seeing how the plastic from our disposable/recycled packaging shrank when heated.

I think these shrinky dinks would make great key rings or maybe a book mark.

What do you think?



