



Making a Mud Kitchen

“Our Mud campaign has changed practice across the early years sector, and we take pride in declaring that mud play is now the norm not the exception”



As pioneers and change-makers, Muddy Faces use funds generated from our shop sales to spearhead and develop impactful projects. Our initiatives have been instrumental in driving transformative change particularly within the Early Years sector.

In 2011, Professor Jan White and Muddy Faces founding director Liz Edwards launched a Mud Play Initiative to increase the understanding, importance, value and range of experiences from mud play as continuous provision, and to support practitioners to achieve this.

Prior to this date only a few settings in the UK provided mud play or had a mud kitchen. Our **Making a Mud Kitchen** booklet was launched online as a free resource in 2012. Within a year it had been downloaded 20,000 times, and 17,000 printed copies were distributed free to practitioners across the UK. The response was breathtaking and the feedback so very positive. Proof of the success of the initiative is in the results: by 2017 mud kitchens had become fully mainstreamed, with a very high proportion of education settings of all types, in all UK countries, having a mud kitchen in their outdoor provision. **Making a Mud Kitchen** has since been translated into 12 different languages, achieving international recognition with tens of thousands of downloads made worldwide. In Portugal and Italy, major early years magazines distributed free printed copies to all their subscribers.

Making a Mud Kitchen advocates developing mud play spaces using recycled and moveable resources rather than static pieces of furniture. In response to this Muddy Faces created an exclusive Modular Mud Kitchen range that enables mud play areas to evolve and develop with children’s play. The **Create Modular Mud Kitchen** was chosen as *Best for Open Ended Play* by the Independent newspaper in their *11 Best Mud Kitchens to Encourage Your Child’s Creativity* list.



We promote International Mud Day on the 29th June annually, creating free resources, running competitions and sharing practice. In 2023 **Mud Champions** was launched, where we seek out inspirational people who support groups to interact with natural materials, especially mud, and give them some well-earned recognition. If you have anyone you would like to nominate as a **Mud Champion**, please get in touch.

