# Make your own microbes: KS1 (10-15 mins)

This activity features in the [KS1](http://www.e-bug.eu/en-gb/ks1-intro-to-microbes) pack. It involves making different microbes out of play dough. Any type of medium can be used that is colourful and malleable enough to be moulded into different shapes and sizes to showcase the diversity of microbes. You can purchase ready-made products or make your own modelling clay using common kitchen ingredients- the recipe is available in TS1 of the lesson plan.

In this activity, participants use images of different microbes, including bacteria, viruses, and fungi to create a microbe using bits of coloured play dough. They can use these images as inspiration to make different shaped microbes, e.g. cocci-shaped bacteria, moulding the play dough to make their creation. Petri dishes or paper plates can be used to keep the play dough microbe in place. Coloured pens or felt-tips can be used to colour in the petri dish, to liken what would happen in a real lab!

## Before you begin you will need:

* Background and lesson plan from the Introduction to Microbes lesson plan (KS1 lesson pack)
* Images of microbes: participants can use these for inspiration and as examples of the different colours, shapes and sizes that microbes come in (You can refer to student handout 1)
* Copies of student worksheets for each participant
* Different coloured modelling clay/Play-Doh/Plasticine
* Petri dishes or cardboard paper plates (participants can use these as a place to hold their play dough microbe)
* Coloured pens / felt-tips

## Use the introduction in the lesson plan or community pack activity to discuss:

* What is the name of the microbe?
* Is it a bacteria, virus, or fungi?
* Is it useful or harmful?
* How can this microbe spread?

## Use the following steps as a guide to implement this activity:

* Remind the participants, with the visual aids and printed off photos of microbes, that there are three different types of microbes (viruses, fungi and bacteria) and how these are different.
* Encourage participants to take some play dough and to make a microbe in a Petri dish or on a paper plate (can be done individually or in groups).
* Explain they can make any microbe using the photos provided.
* Point out common forms of microbes that they might have heard of to get them started.
* Ask them which microbe they are making and tell them a bit about it e.g. is it a fungi, bacteria or virus and is it useful or harmful? (refer to the information sheets provided)
* When they have finished, write what they have made on the Petri dish or paper plate with permanent black marker for them to take home (tape around the edge of the Petri dish to secure the lid if necessary)

