

Thanks for helping today, Bobby.

Here's the schedule for today (Day 2):

6th, 5th, & 4th: Clay Pinch Pot with Inclusions

The kids have a pinch pot of clay started already. They are wrapped in plastic on the shelves of the large clay storage cart.

1. call out initials on pieces / kids pick them up, get tools and extra clay as needed from table 1 (the teacher's table during clay unit)
2. kids work on smoothing, smoothing, and smoothing their work
3. they need holes, handles, or grooves that they can tie, weave, stitch, or wrap their inclusions onto **after** the pieces are glazed and fired
4. wrap unfinished pieces very well in plastic
5. set out finished pieces to dry / please keep all pieces on their own single storage shelf
6. If they have free time after excessive smoothing on their pieces, they may make very small "free draw" pieces that do not need inclusions. They need to sign and store these on the same class shelf in the clay cart. Already dry pieces may be carried down to the "dungeon" in order to make more room on the class shelf.

3rd, 2nd, & 1st: Clay Pinch Pot Big Mouth Creatures

The kids are adding extremities to their pinch pots to make cute little "Big Mouth" creatures. These guys will need a full 5 – 6 minutes to clean up and line up. Set the purple bench on the floor in front of the sink so these shorter kiddos can reach the faucets for hand washing.

1. 3rd grade work is on the shelf on the large clay cart (second shelf up from bottom on the right side). Kids have to add onto their pinch pots to create fun little Big Mouth creatures.
2. Show them the webpage of examples I have open on the computer. Remind students to SLIP very, very carefully. Some may finish today. They should free draw after they clean up.
3. Leave finished work out to dry and carefully wrap the unfinished pieces in the plastic bags all on the same shelf.
4. 2nd and 1st grade work is on the board stacked on the milk crates to the right side of the large clay cart. 1st and 2nd will have to finish their pieces today. These kids have to be taught / reminded how to SLIP their pieces and reminded how serious it is to do this very carefully. Artworks will fall off if slipping is not done very well.
5. Set these pieces out to dry on the board. Please double check that initials and 2-2 or 1-2 are all still easy to read on the bottoms of the artworks. My example is already drying on that

- same board. You can show them but they may not touch it because they will probably break it.
6. K DGN – I have 5 helpers coming in to help teach pinch pot to Kdgn. They are only learning proper pinch pot technique today, not slipping and add-ons like 1st and 2nd did. I have a picture open on the computer app, Notebook, which shows what the steps are for proper pinch pot technique. I'm really focusing on proper technique with this lesson. Please remind the kids to keep their clay in their hands, never on the table, to pinch and shape it. They need to pinch the clay open with only one hand, not both. The other hand is simply to hold and turn the clay as the other hand pinches it open. My verbal queue is that "they are making a big open cup or bowl INSIDE of the clay ball."
 7. They can smooth some cracks with a LITTLE bit of water if they have time at the end. I will teach this group the slipping and Big Mouth creature steps next time.
 8. Collect the pinch pots from the kids one at a time at the end of class. You will have to lightly carve the children's initials in the bottoms of their pinch pots. They cannot do it well enough themselves. The helpers can help with this also. Please wrap these pinch pots very carefully in the plastic garbage bags.
 9. Teach these kids that clean up is to first rinse dusty hands in the buckets of water and then use one pump of soap to wash hands. Dry hands with one paper towel.

Thank you, again, for helping today. It is a very critical day in their clay techniques processes, but I simply cannot talk and the pain is terrible. Please just keep stressing proper technique and to show neatness and care for the quality of their work. You'll probably have to ask them more than once to keep smoothing, fixing, and cleaning up their artworks.

Thank you,
Tammy

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