

Health and Safety Precautions and Guidelines

Please note, these guidelines will form the main part of the children's induction on their first session at Peak Potters and they will continue to be reminded of the health and safety measures to ensure their safety and wellbeing throughout the course, but it is important that you read through and understand the health and safety issues involved with working with clay before they start. Discuss these with your child/ren and ensure you are happy for them to attend.

On this course we use proper grown-up clay. Clay contains silica which can have an accumulative effect if ingested over a long period. It can also be an irritant if its dust is inhaled, and for life-long potters and ceramicists, working in a poorly maintained workshop can lead to silicosis - a build up of silica in the lungs. We deal with this by frequent damping down and cleaning of tools, tables and boards with wet cloths and sponges, vacuuming and mopping the floors and by maintaining good ventilation. The children must help by cleaning up clay and slip spills as they occur and by placing the cloth work mats in the tub of water provided at the end of the session.

No eating is permitted in the ceramics area. Drinks bottles are acceptable.

The children are reminded to avoid sucking their thumbs, biting their nails, putting their fingers in their mouths in any way, or scratching their eyes when carrying out claywork. They can pause to wash their hands at any time. Eye wash and a First Aid kit is on hand in the event of accidents. Any prior cuts to the hand should be covered by a plaster to avoid irritation. Extra care must be taken when using potter's knives and other sharp tools.

There must be no running in the workshop at any time. During winter months, care must be taken around the wood burning stove which can get very hot.

Students are not permitted to retrieve their unfinished or drying work from the storage shelves due to the risk of damage to other people's work. Touching other people's work is also not permitted for this reason. Students must ask the tutor to retrieve their work for them.

Long hair must be tied back, and loose items such as necklaces or ties must be removed before using the potter's wheel. Students may operate the potter's wheels after receiving instruction, but must not use the on/off switches at the socket for the electric wheels.

Any toxic substances such as some glazes or glaze ingredients for adult classes will be clearly labelled and kept in a designated area. Children should never touch or use these substances (which may be in powder or liquid form). Label instructions must be adhered to. The undercoat colours that we use in the Kids Ceramic Courses are child safe and non-toxic. The finished work is later covered with a transparent glaze outside of class hours before the final firing. Students must NEVER approach any of the kilns (both are kept outside in the covered area). All finished glazed pieces are checked for sharp edges and filed smooth if necessary, but extra care must be taken when handling them in case some sharp edges have been missed. Students must NEVER operate the kilns, extruder or scales, or lift any heavy equipment or materials such as bags of clay or large tubs.

Students are permitted to use the house toilet, however they must use the door mat to avoid dust transfer and take care on the stairs. No access is permitted to any other part of the house. Coats and bags are to be put on the hooks provided to avoid trip hazards.

I have read and understood the above health and safety precautions & guidelines and am happy for my child/children to attend the Peak Potters ceramics course.

Signed:

Print:

Date: