

CLAY HANDBUILDING & WHEELTHROWING AGES 8-13

CONNIE EARNSHAW

SYLLABUS

In this class, kids will learn and develop skills in clay wheel throwing and hand building, as well as decorating and glazing. I teach them how to shape simple containers such as cups and bowls on the potters' wheel, and to care for tools and equipment. In addition I present hand building techniques so kids can give form to imagination in sculpture and pottery, from animals to masks, tiles and containers. We add color to the pieces with glazes and slips. Kids also learn about the magic of the ceramic process through a tour of the kiln room and explanation of how clay is transformed in the fire.

In this class I teach basic techniques, and respond to the ideas and interests of the kids. I'll demonstrate how to create basic forms and how to work with these imaginatively. I ask the class what they'd like me to make, and show them specific skills through the vessel or creature they request. Kids choose what they want to create, as I present ideas to guide them and work with them one on one.

WEEK ONE: Basic hand building techniques and how to combine them.

WEEK TWO: Introduction to the potter's wheel – how to prepare the clay, use the equipment, center and shape the clay, finish and trim the pot, and clean up. Kids who want to can hand build.

WEEKS THREE & FOUR: Practicing wheel skills and increasing confidence– learning to make different shapes and add handles and decoration. Work on hand building skills.

WEEK FIVE: Glazing and decorating pieces.