



Clay
CPD

ideas
taking
shape

DISCOVER THE RICH POTENTIAL OF WORKING WITH CLAY

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Description

Clay is the quintessential malleable material. So immediately tactile - responding instantly to children's inquisitive hands. It's irresistible. Being opened- ended, it's full of creative possibilities and it provides a great medium through which children apply their imagination and creative and critical thinking skills. It would be great to see clay available to children everyday.

Clay also connects us to earth, being a natural product coming from the ground. Clay has a rich heritage having been used for thousands of years; in building, pottery and decorative items. The texture of clay is unique, imagining squishing it between your thumb and finger, rolling it, its coldness, ability to hold its shape, its responsiveness to marks on the surface, the even homogeneous colour which goes to emphasize the form – all of which combine to captivate and engage young minds. Clay is also unique in the way that it is malleable but can become hard once dried or permanent after firing in a kiln. Clay provides a wonderful opportunity to work three dimensionally, as well as opportunities for two-dimensional work on flat surfaces. Clay has been a classroom staple since the beginnings of formal early childhood education and it formed an integral part Froebel's kindergarten being one of the core 'occupations'.

In this training I will explain the most suitable types of clay and where best to purchase, and look at how clay can be used sustainably and recycled. I'll be giving lots of tips as to how best to set up a clay area and clean up. In the CPD I will emphasise the importance of having a slow progression, slowly adding new elements so children are always building upon their previous knowledge. Initially focusing on hand manipulation, then progressing to mark making in various ways, then incorporating a variety of tools and techniques to best join, followed by looking at options for combining with other materials such as sticks or wire to afford new possibilities.

Clay doesn't have the instant wow factor of some materials, or range of bright colours but clay seems to have a calming and a grounding effect on many children I've worked with partly due to it being a natural material. Because of its nature, children can alter it, manipulating it in a range of ways, creating endless ideas that suit their unique stage of development. They can rework and alter their ideas which often leads to sustained engagement. Typically we observe much higher involvement than with playdough. A comprehensive handout is included and additional resources and links online.

Aims & Objectives

From this course you will:

- Explore the pedagogical contexts for working with clay in the early years
- Learn how clay can be a versatile media for children's creative expression
- Learn all about the practicalities to get the most out of clay provision
- Understand the possibilities for children's staged progression
- Experience hands-on on sessions to experience the stages and the most appropriate tools

Pete Moorhouse is an Early Years Creative Consultant. He is an associate trainer for Early Education and a Froebel tutor and has delivered training in many countries. He is the author of several journal articles and books and was awarded an honorary research fellowship at Bristol University, currently researching creative and critical thinking in early years. Pete won the national award from the Creative Learning Guild for his work promoting creativity in education and is Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Churchill Fellow.

AUDIENCE: EARLY YEARS LEADERS, MANAGERS, TEACHERS & PRACTITIONERS

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