

SAFETY CODE for using textiles

- Needles and pins should be stored in a card or pin cushion. Make sure that all the needles and pins are returned to storage or returned with the work when the children finish the activity.
 - Use the correct tools for the textile. Use the right size needles. Do not use fabric scissors for cutting anything else – they become blunt and will no longer cut fabric effectively.
 - Keep threads short when hand-sewing so that the thread can be pulled through safely.
 - Sewing machines can be used by older children with close supervision. They must be shown how to use the machine safely. Switch off the power at the wall socket before threading the needle. Sewing machines need to be serviced regularly.
- ### Fabric irons
- Children should use irons only under close supervision. Set the ironing board at a suitable height and use lightweight irons, such as travel irons. Do not leave hot irons unattended by an adult.
- ### Batik
- Use cold resists; rub on cold wax or wax crayon, or use starch or flour resists. If the children are mature enough to handle hot wax safely, the wax must be heated in a thermostatically controlled wax pot.
- ### Dyeing
- Suitable dyes are:
 - natural dyes from edible plants such as beetroot juice, red cabbage, onion skins, tea, blackberries, blueberries or turmeric;
 - non-toxic, cold-water, domestic dyes;
 - food colouring; and
 - non-toxic fabric pens and paints.
- ### Bleach
- Children should not use bleach.

SAFETY CODE for using mouldable materials

- In order to keep the material clean, children should ideally wash their hands before handling re-usable materials such as clay or salt dough or commercial cold-modelling materials such as Plastiline, Play-doh and Model Magic.



Plaster of Paris

- There are a variety of trade names under which plaster of Paris is sold. Mod Roc is the trade name of a bandage-like fabric impregnated with plaster of Paris. Plaster of Paris products become hot when mixed with water, particularly if the plaster of Paris is moulded in thick layers or shapes.
- Do not attempt to make a mould of a whole hand or encase any part of the body in plaster of Paris because it will cause serious heat burns.
- For making moulds, alginate gel is a safer, faster and cleaner material than plaster of Paris.

Vacuum forming

- Vacuum-forming equipment should only be used under close supervision in a well-ventilated area. The teacher should receive training before using this equipment.

Clay

- Wipe away any clay spilt on surfaces while it is still wet, to avoid dust.
- Avoid sanding dry clay.

Salt dough

- Salt dough is a low-risk material but warn children not to eat it.

Papier mâché

- To make papier mâché, use wallpaper paste that does not contain fungicide.

SAFETY CODE for ceramics

Kilns

- Kilns should only be operated by adults who have had training in how to use them safely and how to recognise faults. The kiln must be inspected regularly, including for electrical safety, by a qualified person.
- Fixed kilns should be in a caged-off area, with adequate space around the kiln and ventilation to remove the toxic fumes produced when firing.
- Kilns should have a door interlock, a temperature indicator and a clear ON indicator.
- Do not use fine silica such as ground flint for coating kiln furniture. Use a non-toxic batwash in slop form.
- Portable kilns need to be sited carefully in a secure area which children cannot access during firing. Firing is best done overnight; alert the caretaker when this is happening.

Glazes

- Purchase glazes as a liquid or a paste, not as a powder, and only from a reputable supplier.
- Only use non-toxic glazes.
- The glazes should be cookware quality regardless of what is being glazed.
- The glaze should be applied by dipping, pouring or brushing.
- Do not mix glazes or change their formulation (except glazes from a manufacturer's range designed to be mixed together).