

Dear Party Planner,



Thank you for wanting to find out more about holding a party at The Painted Teapot. TPT would love to help!

Pottery painting parties are really marvellous events - all painters end up with a beautiful piece that they can use and cherish for years to come.

HOWEVER... before you go any further in your planning, I am going to share some harsh truths about holding a children's party at a pottery painting studio. I write this honestly as a ceramic studio owner, an ex-primary teacher & a mum who has seen many many parties of varying parental stress levels. Quite simply, I want you to enjoy yourself as much as the painters, so pour yourself something refreshing and read on...

1. Is this the right party for you right now? Your own child may be able to sit for hours engrossed in an activity. Many others can't. A party at TPT requires all children sitting still for up to an hour & a half for painting & food. The older the children & the smaller the group, the more likely they can all do that.

To be blunt, TPT is purely a pottery painting studio - it does not have play facilities. Even if you have exclusively hired the studio, it still does not become a playground. It is not ideal for full-class Kindy/Pre-Primary parties. It really may be worth waiting a year or two to get the most out of your party for all your guests (and to keep your sanity).

2. Responsibility. You are responsible for all your guests. TPT staff are there to help with all painting aspects of the party; they are not waiting staff nor child minders. Behaviour, clearing tables of food etc is down to you. Do consider the consequences if Bart decides to start breaking up the window display or Lisa wanders into the kiln room... OF COURSE the TPT team will help your party run smoothly in all aspects - and haven't lost a child in the kiln room to date... but their main job is helping the guests to enjoy pottery painting. So...
3. Get the MOST HELPFUL ADULTS you can to help you. Your best mate Marge may be awesome fun at the gin bar, but if she won't stop young Ralph from licking the cake, or offer to take Maggie to the toilet, she is no good to you at the party. Similarly, Uncle Otto standing by the buffet - get your act together Otto... get helping organising the children for the grand cake photo... or at least leave those sausage rolls alone...

You need to allocate adults to help with... toilet trips, photos, naming pieces/fill in ID slips, help you to set up/clear food/cut cake/help organise non-painting activities.

4. Number Crunching TPT really is a small & cosy studio. It can very comfortably hold 20 painters and adult helpers. It can still happily fit 24 and still have space for food and drink & some helpful adults. It cannot easily hold 28 painters and lots of surplus adults. Especially if Uncle Otto is blocking most the studio whilst he eyes up those sausage rolls. TPT just can't run properly with too many people in it - painters & staff need to be able to get equipment easily around the tables & to the basin. You need to be strict on your numbers. This may mean telling extra adults who want to stay on the day to clear off. To help, we have an info sheet that you can pass on to guests before the day.

Please update TPT on any changes to your numbers. We will always be as accomodating as we can, but sometimes we may just not have enough room (or items in stock) if we find out on the day there are 8 extras.

Please also remember that if you have hired the whole studio, the amount quoted is a minimum spend. We cost up the Studio Fees & item prices and will charge the full amount, which will need to be settled on the day. This might make a massive difference to your budget.

#### 5. It's All About Timing

Your party time is when you can first arrive to set up. If you invite your guests to turn up at the same time as you, you will put yourselves under huge stress.

##### Timings Guide:

Party Table - Turn up at 12, invite guests for 12.15, start painting at 12.30 Paint for 30 mins-45 mins. 1.15/30 Eat. 1.45 Cake. 2pm guests collected/tidy up  
Full Studio Hire timing suggestions on the Info Sheet.

##### The younger the painters, the less time they will need to paint.

There will always be Jimbo or Mindy who just isn't into pottery painting and will be finished waaaaay before everyone else. Bring extra table top activities for these kids for whilst the others finish painting - Lego, stickers, drawing, plasticine... all are brilliant.

#### 6. The S-Word. Yup, S.U.G.A.R.

Cake and sweet treats are inevitable at parties but do also remember they often hype your little guests up & make the pottery sticky which affects how the glaze sticks.

Great party food: veg sticks/fruit/sausage rolls/mini pies/popcorn

Not-so-great: lollies, juice boxes (do not underestimate the crazy power of the juice box..)

Save the sweet stuff for as late as you can in your party plans. Dose them up with cake at the very end, just before you hand the guests back to their parents. You're welcome!

Now that you've had the truth about the Bad & the Ugly, you can think about the Good. And we can definitely help with that!

Tory & the Teapot Team