



The Three Minute **SPLAT** Guide to a Successful Pottery Party

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Pottery parties needn't be messy or chaotic. Indeed with a little thought and planning, absolutely everyone - including the organiser, can have a great, relaxing and fun time. Here are our golden tips and a handy checklist to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Our 24 carat gold tip: Control the paint and control the party !

Prevent 90% of all problems even starting by NOT letting children near the paint pots ! Instead put them all in an old ice-cream tub and personally squeeze pea-size amounts of paint onto the palettes as required (you can always add more later). Do not be tempted to put a little of each colour on the palette, but instead start with just one or two lighter colours (white, pink etc.) and let the children paint with these. If possible mix any non-standard colours yourself and slowly work toward the darker tones, one or two colours at a time.

Stay on top of small accidents

Most problem paint marks are not caused by direct spillages, but by paint transfer Paintbrush to hand, hand to apron, and finally apron to FURNITURE! The use of palettes should prevent large accidents but keep a wet-wipe or tissue handy and periodically check and remove any paint from the children's hands / arms. Get older children to do it themselves when they change colours!

Only use the water for brush cleaning - then dry the brush thoroughly

The water should only be used for cleaning the brush between colours. A damp brush will thin the paint and increase the likelihood of paint-splashes so make sure brushes are dried THOROUGHLY before moving onto the next colour. Do not be tempted to use water when mixing colours.

Short on time? - Bring out the glitter !

Leave metallic colours and especially glitter paints until last. Once these appear on the table there will be little interest in anything else. If you are running short on time, use this fact to your advantage with a grand announcement of its arrival....you'll be finished in 10 minutes !

Checklist



Pottery Items	
Paints (preferably Kept together in an old box or ice-cream container)	
Palettes (one for each 2 OR 3 children)	
Brushes (assortment of thick and thin brushes)	
Kitchen Roll (Lots)	
wet-wipes (or small clean damp cloths) for wiping hands	
Large damp clean cloth (in case of accidents)	
Disposable / old tablecloth or newspaper to cover table	
Jars about ½ full of water for brush cleaning (1 for each 2 or 3 children)	
Disposable Aprons or old T-Shirts - Optional	

Things to do before it begins



Clearly define the painting area and remove any valuables	
Cover the table, and place each child's pottery on a sheet of Kitchen roll	
Arrange the palettes and brushes on the table so children don't need to lean too far	
Put a small damp cloth / wet-wipe near each child (explain to them what it's for)	
Put the paints and emergency cleaning cloths on a separate table close by	
Get younger children to go to the toilet before they start	

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