



FAQ for Kids Birthday Parties in the STEAM classroom at the Iowa Ceramics Center and Glass Studio

We love celebrating birthdays with your kiddos, and helping them make a project with their friends! We provide the space, the instruction---they just need to bring their creativity.

1. What does the birthday party schedule look like from 1-2:30?

1:00-1:05—parents drop off of their kids to the STEAM Classroom. Our instructor will welcome them in and get them seated. Please note that we limit the adults in the room to 2-3 – this is due to the small space and to make sure the workshop goes smoothly

1:05-2:20—Our Instructor talks the kids through the series of steps to make the project from wet clay. This will include several steps including—developing their creative idea, pinch pot/slab/coil making, assembly of the clay parts using ‘scratch and attach’ and finally decorating their project with our special ceramic glazes

2:20-2:30—Clean up, all kids will be expected to finish up their works, add their names to the boards, clean their work area (brushes, etc) and wash their hands in the studio.

2:30—parents pick up kiddos, you can hand out treat bags as they leave.

2. Can we bring in treats for the kids—and have the space for longer after the workshop?

We do not allow food or drink inside the STEAM classroom. This is due to the amount of clay particles on the surfaces of the tables/surfaces. In a clay studio there will inevitable be clay residue and other things that should not be consumed. That is why we do not allow them inside the classroom during the party time.

What we recommend, and what has worked for many parties in the past 4 years, is handing out treat bags or cupcakes as parents pick up their kids at the end of the party at 2:30. Alternatively if it is nice outside, you can use the grass across the street at the NewBo Market for a birthday picnic after the workshop—this may or may not be available due to preplanned events outside of the NewBo Marketplace.

3. Do they all need to make the same project?

Yes, but every child’s creativity is different. If the project is mythical creatures, one kiddo may decide to create a dragon and another child could create a mermaid. We do not limit their creativity process, only

to help them bring their vision to reality. No two projects will ever be the same---and that is the best part!

4. Do you have projects they can just paint/glaze?

We are not a pre-made mold center. All projects created will be created by the individual and formed from wet clay.

5. How do they pick up their projects?

All projects are ready for pickup 3 weeks after your event. You will not be called or emailed. Please make a note on your calendar. You can choose between the following options

1. Each parent can come in to pick up their child's project on our shelf
2. We can box all the birthday projects together into a box for you to pick up and distribute yourself (this is the most popular option).

6. What should they wear?

Clay can be messy, but it does wash out from clothing. We recommend that kids do not wear dry-clean only clothing or anything you wouldn't want getting messy. A large t-shirt from home, to wear on top of their outfit works great too!

7. I only have 5 kiddos (not 8) who can come, do I receive a discount?

Our minimum party cost is \$200, and that includes 8 kiddos. Even if you have less than 8, the cost is still \$200. For each additional child past 8, it is an additional \$25/per person for up to 12 kids. Please contact us if you plan to have more than 12 attending as this may require another instructor fee.

8. All of the parents would like to stay for the workshop and watch their kiddos create, can we do that?

We only allow 1-3 parents in the room with the party. This is due to the small space and the pace of the instruction. The kids will be very focused on their project and all eyes should be on the instructor. We will assist your child if needed on the creation of their project.

9. Can I come in early to decorate?

Yes, you can come in 15 minutes early to decorate the space for the party—please note that you must also remove those items and take them with you at the end of the party.

10. How do I pay for the party?

We will contact you're the week of your party to get an estimated head count. You will then be sent an invoice via email for the full payment of the party. You must pay this 48 hours prior to the event. You can pay this online via the invoice.

If more kids show up than you anticipated, you may pay the remaining amount in the office after the event—an additional \$25/child.