

4. Clay 101 - Basic slab projects

How to roll out a piece of slab

Many of our projects come from slabs of clay which the children roll out and turn into everything from wall plaques to vases!

All the kids are capable of rolling their own slab as long as you have plenty of volunteers, even the kindergardeners.

How to roll slab

Sheets of clay of an even thickness are called “slabs”

The slabs the kids work with are uneven and thick and need to be rolled.

Put this slab of clay between 2 wooden battens. The battens are placed vertically either side of the clay.

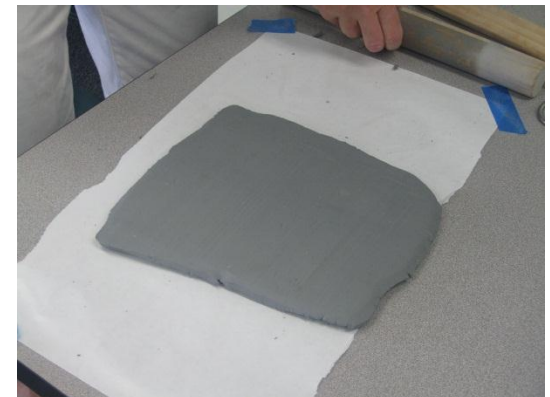
Place the wooden rolling pin on the clay. The 2 battens with the rolling pin make an “H” shape.

Remind children to maintain that “H” shape when rolling out their slab.

Roll the clay from the center outwards. The rolling pin should roll up and down the battens, horizontally, never leaving the battens.

Lift the slab and turn it, roll again and repeat until the slab is exactly the thickness of the battens.

If the slab is thinner than $\frac{1}{4}$ the depth of the battens, it will break when dry.



A Basic Slab Project

- Start by rolling out your slab.
- Put your template on the slab and cut around it using a paperclip cutting tool. Remember to hold it at a 90 degree angle.
- Always make sure the kids names are on the bottom of the project using a pencil.
- Add any embellishments using score and slip technique.
- If this is a wall hanging then make sure you add holes for hanging using a straw.

