

Christmas in the UK does seem to be orientated toward children so it occurred to me that now is the time to think of what, in the polymer clay world, would appeal to them. What immediately comes to mind is a wonderful little tortoise made of cane ends scrap clay which Cara Jane (Surfingcat) showed me. It is so very simple:



Cara tells me she has adapted it from a blog posting she found here:

<http://malsarts.blogspot.com/2009/08/cane-end-turtles.html>

If you want to teach children (and learn yourself) how to make very simple creatures, then Rosie from the Polymer Clay Guild recommended to me Maureen Carlson's book 'Clay Characters for Kids'

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Clay-Characters-Kids-Maureen-Carlson/dp/1581802862/ref=sr_1_sc_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1322771545&sr=8-1-spell – it really is an excellent little book with simple but useful shapes. If you are only interested in making teddies then I recommend another book, this time by Birdy Heywood 'Polymer Clay bears'

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Polymer-Clay-Bears-Twenty-Make/dp/1844485048/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1322771616&sr=1-1

If you want to buy, in which case look at these little fellas:

<http://www.joybears.co.uk/BearBrowser.aspx?l=63>

You can also buy on Yasmin New's very colourful website where she makes and sells some wonderful little creatures:



[http://www.woopsbunienchantedgifts.com/userimages/WINGNUTZ-SHOP\(2263656\).htm](http://www.woopsbunienchantedgifts.com/userimages/WINGNUTZ-SHOP(2263656).htm) (scroll down the page and click on the thumbnail pictures to get a closer look)

Of course the clay manufacturers have their own ideas for children too: Staedtler have a 'crafting with kids' section http://fimo.com/creative_tips_for_FIMO and Polyform have a 'kids area':

<http://www.sculpey.com/kids-area>.

Keep in mind that Polyform are pushing lots of colours of 'Pluffy' and all Pluffy is Ultra light with colours added:



Predictably I stock Ultra light:

http://www.clayaround.com/product_info.php?cPath=12&products_id=408

Finally, just keeping you informed: When working (on our Clay Day last month) with some Kato clay we discovered that, after curing, there were hair line cracks on the pieces we had made. One person there commented that it had happened before. Last week a customer rang me complaining of the same problem and she explained that she had looked on a number of forums and found that she was not alone. I hope it gets sorted soon – it would appear that it is something to do with the new constituents in the Kato clay. I have told the European supplier of all Kato products who has promised to let them know at Van Aken.

And Talking of Clay Days, we will be holding our second Clay Day here in Wales on January 7th 2012 - the standard format is start around 10am and finish around 4pm, bring your lunch and I will provide drinks and biscuits. Bring some of your recent work to 'show and tell' and bring your favourite tools and pasta machine and if you choose, your clay - but of course you will have the option of buying clay whilst you are here. ;-)

You can't make your kids do anything. All you can do is make them wish they had. And then, they will make you wish you hadn't made them wish they had.

-Marshall Rosenberg

