

*Education material  
from Stone Leaf Pottery*

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# Project: Sleepy Expression



Making faces is not difficult, what is more so, is making a face with an expression. There are several ways to do this. Most of the expression in a face come from the mouth and eyes. This expression will illustrate the basic shape of the face, the techniques to making expressions and some finishing techniques as well. Once you get the idea, you can adapt this technique to other faces and forms, you can put them on mugs, vases and bottles as well as pinch pots.



**Step one:** Start with a ball of clay, we're going to be making a pinch pot. It can be any size, this one is 3/4 pound.



**Step two:** Make a pinch pot, keeping it as spherical as possible. You can make two half spheres and attach them together if that's easier.



**Step three:** Invert the ball, you can seal the bottom or leave it open.



**Step four:** Using a ball tool or your finger, make depressions for the eye, the eye should be placed toward the top of the face. To leave room for the rest of the features.



**Step five:** Make a cylinder, and a ball as shown, these are the upper and lower lips. Don't make them too small.



**Step six:** place the lip on the lower part of the face, leaving enough room for the nose.



**Step 7:** Blend the lip in from the top toward the eyes, leaving the lower part as is.



**Step 8:** Place the lower lip against the upper lip as shown and slightly blend the lower lip in toward the chin, leaving the top part of the lower lip as is.





**Step 9:** Roll out two equally sized balls of clay, these will be part of the eye sockets.



**Step 10:** make two small, shallow bowls with your clay balls.



**Step 11** Place them in the eye sockets as shown.



**Step 12** Blend the lower part into the cheek and make a fat teardrop shape for the nose. Make sure that your nose is big enough.



**Step 13** Blend the nose in and add nostrils with a pencil or cone tool. Make four equally sized balls. These are the eye balls and the eye lids.



**Step 14** Cut two of the balls in half and make them into shallow cups as shown. Place them on the eyeball to form eyelids



**Step 15** Place the eyes in the sockets. Play with placement until you find the look you want.



**Step 16** Make two equal sized balls of clay and flatten them into a shallow cup like you did for the eyelids, only larger, these will be the ears.



**Step 17** Blend the ears into the face as shown, pierce the ears to form the inner structure.



**Step 18** Side view



**Step 19** Pass a soft ball of clay through a cheap kitchen strainer to make hair. Slip the top of the head and apply the clay, working the hair in with a needle tool. Pat the hair down gently to make sure its set well.



**Step 20** Now your guy can get some sleep. You could add a old timey nightcap, or give your guy a beard. Just have fun!

