

Important information for groups using The Castle Climbing Centre

Parental consent

It is important that all children attending Geckos climbing parties have been given permission to do so by their parent or guardian. It is the responsibility of the group leader to ensure this and to confirm this on The Castle's group use form. Please make sure that all parents/guardians are aware that climbing is a potentially hazardous activity.

On arrival at The Castle

Please present yourselves to reception, where your instructor/s will be waiting for you. We suggest that you arrive approximately ten to fifteen minutes before the starting time, to allow sufficient time for the children to be fitted with climbing shoes and to store their coats etc. in lockers. If you arrive early, please ensure that the group stays together, under control and relatively quiet, whilst they wait.

Please note that under no circumstances must anyone begin climbing until they are under the supervision of an instructor.

Just before the start of the session the instructors will finalize any paperwork, whilst the climbers collect their shoes from the shop. Once the climbers have put on their shoes the instructors will begin the session.

The party session

The standard birthday party lasts for one and a half hours, with the children divided into groups of six or less.

The first half hour of the session is spent on the traversing wall and the bouldering wall, where the children are taught some basic climbing technique: 'Use your feet!' Both areas allow instruction in a relatively non-threatening environment.

When the children have built up some confidence they move on to the higher 'top-roped' walls, ranging from 4 to 12 metres, depending on the children's ability. The groups are sub-divided into threes: one climber and two 'belayers.' Instructors control all safety aspects of the session, but using the children as belayers ensures that all children remain involved and there is no waiting around. In general, each child will spend half an hour 'bouldering' and will ascend the top-roped wall at least twice.

At the end of the session:

Please ensure that the all kit is returned- helmets and harnesses to the instructors, shoes to the shop- as soon as the session ends. Please ensure that the children stay under your supervision and that no-one continues to climb on any of the walls, or runs around in the centre.

We hope that you all enjoy your Geckos birthday party at The Castle!