

U18 ASSESSMENT – IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND CHILDREN (14-15 YEAR OLDS)



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RISKS

Participation Statement: *All climbing activities have a risk of serious injury or death. Participants must recognise that even if they follow all good practice there may still be the risk of accident and injury. It is the responsibility of the participant to adhere to the conditions of use.*

As with all sporting activities, injuries are possible in climbing and might be sustained despite the safety systems in place.

- **Bouldering** is climbing without ropes on shorter walls (up to 4m). Climbers will need to be able to assess their own ability to downclimb or jump off safely, similar to playground equipment use. Broken and sprained limbs are common - the soft matting underneath does not make the activity safe.
- When **roped climbing**, climbers may climb up to 12m. They will be in safety harnesses and tied in to a rope which is controlled by a belayer. Injuries might be sustained during a slip or a fall despite the safety systems in place.
- **Lead Climbing** is an advanced roped climbing activity which carries some additional risk of injury due to the potential for longer falls. It is possible to sustain ankle and wrist injuries from impacting the wall when falling.
- When climbing using an **Auto Belay** – a mechanical belay device that takes up the slack as the climber ascends and safely controls the descent when the climber lets go or falls – climbers will be in a safety harness attached to the Auto Belay and may climb up to 12m. Injuries might be sustained during a slip or a fall despite the safety systems in place.
- **Climbing holds can spin or break** causing climbers to fall unexpectedly.

THE COMPETANCE ASSESSMENT

The U18 Assessment will be conducted by a qualified Castle Instructor working for the Castle Climbing Centre. **The assessment is an indication of the competence of the child to use the climbing centre unsupervised at that time only.** It is the responsibility of the child to maintain familiarity with the skills and knowledge required.

The assessment is NOT a measure of the child's climbing ability and in no way does it measure their ability to climb in the outdoor environment.

[The Online Parental Consent Form](#) must be completed before the assessment.

The Parent/Guardian MUST be present at the Assessment.

After the Competence Assessment the child will be either:

1. Approved for all climbing activities in the centre, including lead climbing.
2. Deferred to gain more experience.

If the child is deferred the instructor will tell them what aspects of their climbing they need to gain more experience of before undergoing another assessment.

BOOKING INFORMATION

The Assessment must be booked in advance by a Parent/Legal Guardian and the Parent or Legal Guardian MUST be present for the whole Assessment.

Assessments can be booked either by telephone (0208 211 1082) or in person at the centre.

The cost of the Assessment is £35.00 and full payment is required as booking confirmation.

The assessment usually takes 60 to 90 minutes.

Cancellations by customer: If you contact us 72 hours before the start of the Assessment we can move your booking to another date or issue you a full refund. Email info@castle-climbing.co.uk

Cancellations/modifications by The Castle: The Castle reserves the right to cancel or change the Assessment up to 24 hours before the event in case of lack of available staff.

Please note that your child must bring someone to climb for them during the assessment so that they can demonstrate belaying skills. This additional person must be a competent Lead Climber.

If your child doesn't have anyone to climb for them, this can be arranged for extra cost.

UNSUPERVISED CLIMBING

After successful completion of the U18 Assessment and if you give your consent by signing the Parental Consent Form, the young person will be allowed to climb in the centre **completely unsupervised!** The staff will always provide whatever help and advice they can, but they cannot be expected to give instruction in the use of equipment or climbing techniques. If the child is not confident in the use of any climbing equipment or technique then they should not attempt to use it without the supervision of someone who is competent to do so. The centre offers courses in most climbing techniques by prior appointment.

CONDITION OF REGISTRATION

- Children can only register for unsupervised climbing if they are over 14 years old, have completed our U18 Assessment successfully and their Parent or Guardian has completed the Parental Consent Form.
- All climbers must follow the Conditions of Use and Rules specified by the Castle at all times. If they fail to do so their Registration may be withdrawn.