

Geckos' birthday parties: what to expect

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.

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

The party

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



The Castle's 8 metre Rockley Wall

The first half hour of the session is spent 'bouldering': climbing some of the lower walls, protected by soft mats. This area allows for some basic instruction in a relatively non-threatening environment.

When the children have built up some confidence they move on to the 8 metre 'top-roped' walls. 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 everyone remains 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.

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