A Guide For Parents To Parties At MakerKids

Looking for a place to book your next birthday party in Toronto? Come make something awesome at MakerKids! We offer award-winning birthday parties for kids, featuring creative STEM activities in Minecraft, Robotics and Coding themes! We require at least 1 week notice for booking birthday parties and events. On behalf of everyone at MakerKids, thank you for choosing us to hold your special event! Below are some commonly asked questions that we have answered. Remember, if you have any additional questions, you can contact us (leaside@makerkids.com or 416-486-6257)

Common Questions:

- Where do MakerKids' birthday parties take place?
- How do I book a party at MakerKids?
- Why should I have my child's event at MakerKids?
- What topics do you offer?
- How long is the party?
- How many kids can come?
- What's included?
- How much does it cost?
- When can I book a party for?
- What ages are your parties appropriate for?
- Can I bring drinks/food/cake? What about plates and utensils?
- Do I need to make sure everyone brings Minecraft accounts? What if some guests don't have accounts?
- What payment methods do you accept?
- What can parents do during events?
- Is there an Online version for the waivers? Does everyone need to have one?
- Can I decorate the space?
- What activity should my child choose?
- My child or their friends are inexperienced in this topic, or some are experienced, and some are not. How can they all do it?
- This seems expensive. Why?
- What is the itinerary for the party?
- What is the cancellation policy?
- Should participants bring their own laptops?

Question: Where do MakerKids' birthday parties take place?

Answer: At our makerspace at 1661 Bayview, Toronto, Ontario. We have two rooms you can choose from when booking depending on your party size - our "Big Room" which can fit 20 kids or less.

We can also run parties at your location or virtually. Email us at leaside@makerkids.com to inquire about this.

Question: How do I book a party at MakerKids?

Answer: Please contact us at leaside@makerkids.com or call 416-486-6257.

And if for some reason the times/dates available do not work for you, let us know and we can probably work something out for you :).

We try to be as flexible as possible! Availability for parties depends on the availability of our space. Our services are in high demand, please allow a couple of days or more to confirm your party. We require at least 1 week notice for booking birthday parties and events.

Question: Why should I have my child's event at MakerKids?

Answer: Because the kids will love it! They'll explore creative activities, learn new high-tech skills (eg. electronics) and make unique things for a memorable birthday! We're dedicated to inspiring and enabling youth to be makers!

At MakerKids, we aim for programs and events that create a truly unique experience for participants. We're one of the only Makerspaces in the world that tailors its programs towards kids. All our programs are focused on STEM learning and team building, without the child realizing that they are learning! Depending on the program you choose, we cover programming, electronics and more! All in an environment that promotes teamwork and group collaboration. Participants have an amazing time with us, sharpening their collaborative skills and always learning something new!

Birthday Party Testimonial: *"He and his friends love to build stuff so the hands-on activities kept them engaged the whole time. The staff member who helped was fantastic and it was a breeze to arrange. I'd highly recommend MakerKids and their birthday party packages.*" – Alison

Question: What topics do you offer?

Answer:

Minecraft Birthday Party
Do you love Minecraft? Play together with your friends on the MakerKids server. You can learn new skills, create your own world in Minecraft and more. Let's get Minecrafting!

Robotic Inventions Party
During this party, you will get to learn about robotics! Kids get to use a micro-controntroller, a small computer used as the brain of the robot which can be programmed to control the way lights, motors and other electronic parts interact. You will have a chance to learn about the microcontroller by learning to make small LED lights turn on, changing the way it acts by altering the code, and come up with ideas for how you could use a robotic microcontroller in future projects of your own.

Coding: Make a Video Game Party
Learn what makes up a video game and customize existing games using Scratch. Scratch is a popular introductory programming language made by MIT that uses building blocks of code that fit together to create a program, with no complicated spelling or grammar to worry about.

Question: How long is the party?

Answer: Our parties are 2 hours long. You may want to reserve some time in that allotment for cake, gifts, etc. All of our party lengths are enough time to do the activity and have fun.

Question: How many kids can come?

Answer: We have packages for 10 kids or less and 20 kids or less.

Question: What's included?

Answer:
Booking our standard birthday party for your child at MakerKids Leaside includes:

- Our instructors pre-planning the activity and preparing the space
- Party space for up to 10 or 20 children and a few parents
- 2-hour birthday activity with all supplies provided (choose 1 of the activities above)
- 1 MakerKids instructor to guide the event, or more depending on party size
- All kids will learn something new STEM-related!
- Setup and cleanup, one less thing you'll have to worry about!

If you've been looking for a place to book your kid's birthday party in Toronto, this is it! Our birthday parties are a whole bundle of awesome and kids have a great time learning how to make things! Don't miss out on giving your child a very unique party, contact us today!

Question: How much does it cost?

Answer:

	10 kids or less	20 kids or less
2 hour party	$500+HST	$1000+HST

Question: When can I book a party for?

Answer: Fridays**,** Saturdays and Sundays, as well as some weekday evenings, depending on space/instructor availability.

Please contact for times available.

Question: What ages are your parties appropriate for?

Answer: Our parties are suitable for kids ages 6-13.

Question: Can I bring drinks/food/cake? What about plates and utensils?

Answer: Yes! While MakerKids is not licensed to serve food, you can bring it in. Just let your instructor know before the start of the birthday party when you arrive. They will usually end the activity a bit early so that everyone can enjoy the food and drink. If you need anything to be kept cool, again, let the instructor know. There is a fridge in the back that can be used (no freezer). There is a Pizza Pizza located conveniently beside us. *We are a nut-free facility. Please make sure not to bring any nuts*.

Plates and utensils need to be provided by you. MakerKids does not supply this.

Question: For the Minecraft Birthdays, do I need to make sure everyone brings Minecraft accounts? What if some guests don't have accounts?

Answer: We have in-house accounts that participants can use if they do not have an account.

If guests wish to use their own accounts, please ensure that all guests attending the event know their Minecraft username and passwords. Note that if the participant plays on the iPad version of Minecraft, their username and password will not work with the desktop version. It is currently not possible to use the iPad version of Minecraft in our events.

Question: What payment methods do you accept?

Answer: Payment before the event can be done using credit card on your MakerKids account. Please contact us about this.

Question: What can parents do during the birthday parties?

Answer: There is a front reception for parents in our lobby. In addition, there is also a coffee shop and many other shops nearby.

Question: Is there an online version for the waivers? Does everyone need to have one?

Answer: Yes, there is an online version. Please make sure that everyone from your party signs our waiver before coming. We will send you one.

More information on the waivers:

We have a standard waiver form that we ask all participants or their guardian to sign to use our facilities. However, we still need the waiver to be signed, since there are other parts that are relevant to all activities. We keep the signed waivers on file so that you don't have to sign another one on your next visit.

Question: Can I decorate?

Answer: Yes! Just come 15 minutes early before the party start time. We cannot accommodate earlier visits. Please note that MakerKids does not supply any decorations.

Question: What activity should my child choose?

Answer: First, look through the types of parties we offer above, what do you think your child would love? This is a tough one to answer because it really depends on the child. Our programs are designed for everyone so you can't really go wrong. All have had overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents and participants.

Question: My kid or their friends are inexperienced in this topic/some kids are experienced and some are not. Or some are younger than others. How can they all do it?

Answer: We regularly have participants in our programs with varied skill levels. Our programs are designed to be open ended and fun for everyone. Our instructors are very knowledgeable about the topics we cover and will be there to answer any questions that come up. The programs are taught so that everyone gets up to speed quickly and its tons of fun!

Question: This seems expensive. Why?

Answer: MakerKids is one of the only Makerspaces in the world that focuses on youth and kids. Doing something this unique and awesome is not inexpensive for us to run. A large part of the cost goes towards materials, equipment and upkeep of our space. In addition, we make sure that our instructors are fully trained in the topics that are covered. This is so you and your child have the best time possible at our events.

Question: What is the itinerary for the party?

Answer: It really depends on the birthday party. The lesson will vary depending on the topic, instructor and the needs of the party participants. The instructor will go over the itinerary with you before the party starts.

Here is an example timeline for the birthday parties we offer:

Party: (all times are examples)	Minecraft (2 hours)
3:30 PM	Welcome and introductions
3:45 PM	Connecting to the Minecraft Server
4:00 PM	Play! + Learning New Skill
4:15 PM	Instructor Check In
4:45 PM	Wind down for food (if required)
5:30 PM	End of program

Question: Should participants bring their own laptops to events?

Answer: No, it is not necessary - we provide all the laptops :)

Question: What is the cancellation policy for a birthday party?

Answer: We require a minimum of 2 weeks' notice to cancel your party. If cancellation is within that time frame, there is a $100 cancellation fee.