

A Guide For Parents To Parties At MakerKids

Are you looking for a place to book your next birthday party in Toronto? Come make something awesome for your next birthday party at MakerKids! We offer special creative maker activities for birthday parties for kids and adults such as Minecraft, Robotic and Coding! We require at least 1 week notice for booking birthday parties and events. On behalf of everyone at MakerKids, I would like to 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 (info@makerkids.com).

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?
- 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 schedule of the party?

Topic Specific Questions:

- Do I need to make sure everyone brings Minecraft accounts? What if some guests don't have accounts?
- Should participants bring their own laptops?

Question: Where do MakerKids' birthday parties take place?

Answer: At our makerspace at 2451 Bloor St W, Toronto, Ontario. We have two rooms you can choose from when booking depending on your party size - our "Big Room" which can fit 30 kids or less, and our "Small Room" which can fit 10 kids or less.

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

Question: How do I book a party at MakerKids?

Answer: Please contact us at info@makerkids.com or 416-385-3577

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 :). info@makerkids.com

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 and you don't have to worry about planning or making a mess at your house! The kids will explore creative activities, learn some new high tech skills (eg. electronics) and make unique things that will make for a memorable birthday! In addition to feeling good, you'll be doing good. We're dedicated to inspiring and enabling youth to be makers, and booking a birthday party with us supports our pay-what-you-can programs and events!

At MakerKids, we aim for programs and events that create a truly unique experience for participants. We are one of the only Makerspaces in the world that tailors its programs towards Kids. All of 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! This is all in an environment that promotes teamwork and group collaboration. Participants have an amazing time with us, sharpening their collaborative skills and always ending up 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:

Mini MakerKids Birthday Parties

Welcome Mini MakerKids! This program is designed for little ones who like to think big. Kids will learn how to create and make using various platforms and gadgets. Kids will be exposed to both

technical and 21st-century skills, like creativity and confidence. Based on STEM education, kids will build a strong foundation for out-of-the-box thinking, coding and how computers work. Using logic and design, kids will make something amazing and out of this world.

Sampler Party: Make it Electric! (Gr. 1+)

Moving through all three of the topics we offer at MakerKids, kids discover the role that electricity plays in each. Starting off by making an interactive Microbit robot, kids continue on to program a video game in Scratch, and finally work together to build a custom world in Minecraft.

Coding Birthday Parties

Video games can open up a whole new world of imagination and creativity. Coding your own video game pushes kids to explore different possibilities and scenarios. Kids will create their own games and play other kids' games too!

Video Game Coding: Arcade Games (Gr. 3+)

Working in Scratch's block based coding environment, kids follow along programming and customizing their very own arcade video game. Once their game is fully functional, more experienced makers have the chance to keep on adding an endless array of features or even design their own.

Video Game Coding: Platformers (Gr. 5+)

Stencyl is professional 2D game development software that includes a physics engine, collision detection, and a block based option for writing behaviours. While learning what goes into making a video game, kids create their own Nintendo-like platformer that look ready for the appstore.

Robotics Birthday Parties

In our Robotics party, kids will design, plan, program, and build an electronic invention while using a robotic microcontroller and learning how to code. They can create their own robotic invention and make it light up.

Robotics: Robotic Pets (Gr. 3+)

Using the Microbit microcontroller, kids learn the basics of controlling electricity while making robots into their own interactive pets. For more experienced makers the functionality they can add to what their pet can do grows increasingly complex.

Robotics: Light Show (Gr. 5+)

The Arduino is a prototyping microcontroller popular with both hobbyists and professionals. Kids learn to use a breadboard to wire up circuitry the Arduino can connect to, and then to program their robot to interact with their lights and switches creating their very own customized light show.

Minecraft Birthday Parties

Minecraft birthday parties at Makerkids have something for everyone. Hop into a block based virtual world with your friends and work together to build amazing creations.

Minecraft Multiplayer: Zoo Keepers (Gr. 3+)

Kids work together to design a zoo, build the appropriate environments, populate it with creatures, and outfit it with some redstone automation.

Minecraft Multiplayer: Amusement Park (Gr. 5+)

Using World Edit plugin commands and redstone circuitry, kids design, build, and get to enjoy all the activities you would find at a themepark.

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, 20 kids or less, and 30 kids or less.

Question: What's included?

Answer:

Booking our standard birthday party for your child at our west Toronto venue includes:

- Our instructors pre-planning the activity and preparing the space
- Party space for up to 10, 20 or 30 children and a few parents
- 2 hour birthday activity with all supplies provided (choose 1 of the activities above)
- 1 MakerKids staff to assist with the event, or more depending on party size
- All kids get to learn something new and take home their new creations if possible
- 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	30 kids or less
2 hour party	\$500+HST	\$1000+HST	\$1500+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! 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 right beneath us. *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. If this is not possible we may be open to Paypal, cash or cheque. Please contact us about this.

Question: What can parents do during the birthday parties?

Answer: There is a "lounge" for parents in the form of chairs where we have our lobby. In addition, there is also a coffee shop or a bar a couple of steps away from MakerKids.

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. Or some 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 can have 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 schedule of the party?

Answer: It really depends on the birthday party. The schedule will vary depending on the instructor and the needs of the party participants. The instructor will go over the schedule 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)
1:15 PM	Welcome and introductions
1:30 PM	Connecting to the Minecraft Server
1:45 PM	Play! + Learning New Skill
2:15 PM	Instructor Check In
2:45 PM	Wind down for food (if required)
3:15 PM	End of program

Question: Should participants bring their own laptops to events?

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