

5 Great Birthday Party Spots in Chicago

Birthday parties for kids can get a little repetitive. If you and your child are bored with the same old party activities, maybe it's time to try something new. Here are some fun alternatives to classic party themes.

For circus fans: The Actor's Gymnasium

Parties here include an instructional workshop hour where kids can learn circus arts, Imaginastics (physical theater and storytelling), or Acro-Dance, followed by cake and present time. Having a party elsewhere? The Actor's Gymnasium has event entertainers that will come to your location. Party prices start at \$375 for up to 15 kids.

For artsy kids: Easel Art Studio

★ Easel Art Studio

100%

1911 North Milwaukee Avenue

Birthdays

Easel Art Studio is the answer for kids who like to get creative and parents who don't want to deal with the mess. Parties include two teachers for every 12 kids, face painting, goodie bags and a discount on local pizza joint Piece. The studio can accommodate 25 kids max, and extra teachers will cost \$50. You can also pay an extra \$12 per child for special art projects. Easel Art Studio will also come to your house with supplies and instructions for two art projects. Home parties start at \$200 and in studio parties start at \$300.

For sporty types: KeyLime Cove



★ KeyLime Cove Indoor Water Park Resort

100%

1700 Nations Drive

Bathrooms Changing tables

Celebrate birthdays with a pool party any time of year at KeyLime Cove. There are three party packages: the Enchanted Lagoon, Arcade Mania and Splash-tacular Bash, each with its own special features like manicures, pizza or hot dogs and arcade credits. Prices start at \$160 for 5 kids, or \$225 for 5 kids with a reserved area in the water park for 4 hours. There are many add-on options available, including additional water park passes, food, arcade game cards, and spa services. Book a room for an extra-special sleepover party.

For mini scientists: Kids Science Labs

★ Kids Science Labs

100%

1500 North Kingsbury Street

Birthdays

Be prepared to get a little messy at a Mysteries of Science party at Kids Science Labs. Up to 20 kids will have 90 minutes of science activities filled with explosions, slime and bubbles. The larger Big Birthday Blowout party offers private access to the entire facility and ends with a 20-foot volcanic eruption. You can also book a custom party based on your child's interests, including themes like Star Wars, Harry Potter or dinosaurs. Prices for a Mysteries of Science party start at \$675 or \$475 for enrolled students and Big Birthday Blowout parties start at \$975 or \$775 for

enrolled students.

For creative minds: Robot City Workshop

★ Robot City Workshop

3226 North Sheffield Avenue

Birthdays

Little scientists will surely love this all-robot birthday party at the Robot City Workshop. There will be robot-themed decorations, paper goods for the treats you bring, goodie bags and a robot building kit for each kid. The birthday child picks the type of robot to make during the party whether it is Robot Duck, Smart Robot, Doodling Robot, Robo-Bug or a Box Robot. Robot City Workshop instructors will be there for assistance. Omnibot 2000 even brings out the cake! Parties cost \$40 per child with a minimum of 4 kids and maximum of 16 and must be reserved for 11:30am or 3pm on Saturdays or Sundays.

Sarah Parisi was a lawyer in her former life, but left that behind when she became a mom. Now she spends her days with three energetic young boys. Not content to stay home, Sarah and her family adventure throughout the Chicago area and she blogs about their experiences at Toddling Around Chicagoland. Follow Sarah on Twitter @toddlingchicago



Photo credit top to bottom: Easel Art Studio, KeyLime Cove.