

RECORDINGGIFT.COM

THE ULTIMATE STUDIO EXPERIENCE FOR SINGERS AND MUSICIANS

KIDS PARTY ORGANISERS GUIDE

Thank you for your interest in our Kids recording parties. Besides providing fun and very unique birthday experiences, we aim to make our events as effortless for you as possible so you can just sit back, relax and enjoy it on the day as we entertain, produce and create your kids masterpiece just like the pop stars do in one of our professional sound recording studios.

Established in 1993, we have extensive experience in professional sound recording and have hosted many hundreds of kids (and adults) parties with flattering feedback, so you're in safe hands!

Our Kids parties are for 8 inclusive participants, but additional participants can be added. Numbers we can cater for vary between our studios, so check with us the max we can accommodate for your party, or take a look at our website AStarKidsParties.co.uk where you'll find information on the numbers we can cater for.

We will send you a gift pack to give the birthday boy/girl and some nice invites to send out. We'll send you more than you need, and if you need to add additional participants once you have exact numbers upon receipt of your RSVP's, our booking confirmation email will tell you how to do this.

Although it is a bit of fun, we do try to get the very best we can from all the participants so they have something they will listen to and have great memories of in years to come.

Technically, It's not just a case of all standing around one microphone and singing as you may think, it's a bit more involved, especially for us, and so it is really important that all the participants are familiar with the songs they will be performing to make everything run as smooth as possible.

After booking, we will ask you to let us know the songs they would like to sing. It usually takes an hour or so to record a song, but varies depending on how well rehearsed they are and how they would like to perform it, i.e. as one group, or with solos or in smaller groups. The choice is theirs but do be sure to let your producer know upon arrival if you have any preference.

We will ask you for the following number of song choices:

- 2 for our 2 hour 'Popkids' parties
- 3 for our 3 hour 'Popkids Plus' parties
- 4 for our 4 hour 'Superstar' parties
- 1 for our 2 hour 'Popstar Video' Parties

We have over 50,000 songs to choose from. Click on the **TRACKS** link at the top of our website at RecordingGift.com. If you can't see what you'd like, please ask as we may be able to get it for you.

We will send you a link to download backing tracks and words. You can forward this link to the others/parents so there's no excuses! Everyone should know the songs well by the time the big day arrives.

Song Choices

Choose songs with a strong sing-along chorus that everyone knows. Here's some examples of songs that work well:

- Firework - Katy Perry
- That's What Makes You Beautiful – One Direction
- Call Me Maybe – Carly Rae Jepsen
- Price Tag - Jessie J
- We Are Young – Fun
- I Got A Feeling – Black Eyed Peas
- Locked Out of Heaven – Bruno Mars
- Uptown Funk – Bruno Mars
- Can't Stop The Feeling – Justin Timberlake
- Shake It Off – Taylor Swift
- Roar - Katy Perry
- Symphony – Clean Bandit
- Black Magic – Little Mix
- Shotgun – George Ezra
- Wings – Little Mix
- Mamma Mia - ABBA

Please be aware of the lyrical content of some songs! You will be surprised how risqué and innuendo some can be and we have had a few raised eyebrows (and have even raised our own) when the words are printed out! We can change/adapt them in most instances for you, but worth checking them first.

For their main song it's always good (we think!) when they each have a line or two of a verse to sing solo (or in pairs for the less confident) and then everyone joins in for the choruses.

Its good if they work this out between themselves in advance of the party so they take ownership of the song and all know what they are doing and have good chance to practise.

Then time permitting the other song(s) can be performed together as a group, or maybe the birthday girl/boy performs the verses and everyone joins in for the chorus. The better rehearsed they are, the more they will get done and more options they will have. We can't stress enough that everyone really does need to know the song(s) well in advance. The longer we spend practising gives us less time to record.

The participants will have words in front of them on the day. Please bring a copy of your words we have sent out, especially if you have made notes on them. Please print them single sided, unstapled and unfolded. They need to sit on a music stand to minimise noise while recording.

Note: The agenda, and recording techniques will vary slightly between studio locations, but the above information will give you a good idea of what to expect.

Depending on staffing levels and individual procedures, most studios will edit, mix and produce CD's on the day for you to take away, and others will have them ready to collect within 72 hours. Your producer will advise you accordingly.

Arrive on Time!

Please ensure everyone arrives by the start time (but no more than 10 minutes before your allocated session start time as we'll be sound checking and testing all the equipment). It's often not possible for us to run over your allocated time slot so it's important that we're ready to start promptly. Plan your route and allow enough time to get to the studio. Ensure you take contact details **of the studio** with you as per our booking confirmation email to call them if you get lost. We may not be around at HQ at weekends so the studio will be your first point of contact.

Buffet

We will provide soft drinks for everyone, but feel free to bring some nibbles and a cake and other drinks you may like. We have an area where you lay out food and you will have a few minutes between songs for everyone to have a bite to eat, and at the end of the party while the CD's are being made is a great time to cut the cake and you can take some photos around the studio!

Although most of our studios will allow it, we strongly advise against ordering in hot food. Its disruptive to the session and severely compromises recording time we will have.

Dress Code

Why not get them to dress up as in a theme of their favourite pop star, a pop era, or as one of the artists whose song they will be singing. This option is on the invites we send out.

Props (such as inflatable guitars etc) are a nice touch, but only for the photos at the end! They are a real hinderance and disruptive for the recording session itself, so if bringing props, hide them away until the recording is complete!

Photos

Bring your cameras – and feel free to take photos.

We offer a professional photo shoot option at some of our studios if you prefer.

Check our website for options and availability.

Video

At some of our studios (check our website for availability) we offer the option to film the event and capture all the live action as it happens from our fixed studio cameras – a great keepsake! You can order this online in advance from our website.

The 'Grown-Up' Stuff

Bear in mind you will be in a professional, commercial sound recording studio where we host recording studio experiences. We are not 'Jungle Jim's' or a faux recording setup with cheap equipment created to specifically cater for kid's parties. This is the real deal, which is our USP, and makes it much more exciting for all participants. With that in mind we politely ask that you be aware the walls will not be padded(!), there won't be balloons everywhere (but you are more than welcome to bring some!) and the equipment we use is first class, very expensive but unfortunately not at all child proof.

At least one accompanying adult **must** remain present throughout the entire event. It's useful to us if there's 2-3 present just to keep everyone in check as we have some very expensive equipment around and quite understandably everyone will be very excited.

We must limit spectators to 4 without prior arrangement.

Please don't bring babies/very young children. A crying baby makes the sound engineers job near impossible!

Pets are not permitted at any of our studio premises.

Any equipment damaged due to negligence will be chargeable to the event organiser so be sure to keep the kids in check! We brief all participants before we start the session of the do's and don'ts and domestics.

Cancellation

Ensure that you have read and understood our cancellation policy which you can find on the 'terms' page on our website. We understand that this is a very special day for the participants, and we will only ever rearrange an event where we are left with absolutely no alternative (i.e. sickness or equipment malfunction). We will of course give you as much notice as possible, and reschedule to a future mutually convenient date.

Check List:

1. Make your song choices and let us know ASAP, ideally within 2 weeks of the party date.
2. Send out invites.
3. Circulate backing tracks and lyrics links that we send you.
4. Make sure that every participant is well rehearsed and knows the songs well.
5. Book and pay for any additional participants at least 48 hours before the party. The link to do this online is in our booking confirmation email. Persons not booked in will not be allowed to partake.
6. Print out a copy of the song lyrics we send you (that have been formatted suitable for the studio) for each participant on the day, single sided, not stapled and do not fold.
7. Feel free to bring sandwiches/nibbles/cake/drinks, balloons, candles and a lighter of course!
8. Plan your route and arrive on time on the day. Ensure you take directions and a contact number of the studio you will be attending with you. Call the studio if you get lost.

That's it! We'll take care of the rest and will explain anything else you need to know to you all on the day.

Any More Questions?

Please contact us at head office if you have a general question, or if it's a studio specific / domestics query you have then you can contact the studio direct. They will send you their contact information shortly after we send you your booking confirmation email.

We look forward to meeting you
Happy Practising!