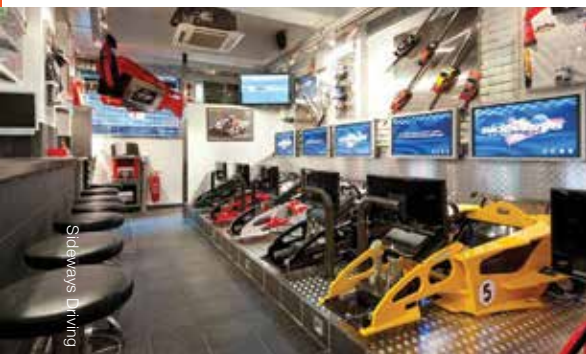




Let's get the

# Party Started!

Make sure your little ones party is full of smiles – theirs and yours. *Gillian Johnston* and *Rebecca Simpson* have found the best party venues, entertainers and suppliers in town to make the ultimate party guide.



Sideways Driving



Laser Mazes



Sketch Studios

**W**hatever occasion you're celebrating we want to make it special and – in these busy times – easy to organise. With Hong Kong homes being on the small side (to say the least) the trend is to host parties at an external venue. Many places offer activities, catering and some little extras, so read on to see what piques your interest. We've also compiled a list of entertainers and suppliers to help the party go with a swing!

## Party Venues

### Pizza perfection

Everyone loves pizza so why not host a party where kids can make their own? At a Pizza Express celebration, guests customise their own pizza while sporting a chef's hat and apron. Parties cost \$198 per child (plus service) for two hours, complete with cake and invitations. Eat up at [www.pizzaexpress.com.hk/parties-and-catering](http://www.pizzaexpress.com.hk/parties-and-catering).

### Get in the driving seat

An outing to Sideways Driving Club will have Dads desperate to join the fun! Sideways is a virtual racing centre offering all the thrills of a high speed track and making drivers feel like they really are behind the wheel of a racecar. Bookable for one to five hours, with pizzas or a full menu. Drive along to [www.sideways-driving-club.com](http://www.sideways-driving-club.com).

### Hit up a hotel

Head to the Hyatt Regency in Shatin for a fun-filled celebration set in stunning surroundings. Party features include a child-friendly buffet, delicious fruit cake, and activities (from games to balloon-twisting). With prices from \$270 per child and \$370 per adult, this hotel package won't break the bank. Contact details: [events.shatin@hyatt.com](mailto:events.shatin@hyatt.com).

### Ryze in the air

Ryze claims to be the ultimate extreme air experience, so if you've got a little daredevil, this might just be the venue for you. Party experiences start from HK\$2,700/ party of 10. Basic parties include time on the trampolines, a

dedicated party space, a host and a special gift for the birthday boy or girl. You can even bring your own food. Check it out at [www.ryzehongkong.com](http://www.ryzehongkong.com).

### Woodlands

Woodlands Pre-Schools can offer the perfect space to hold a children's party. While the play area is equipped with lots of toys and activities to keep little ones amused, Woodlands can also help arrange entertainers and catering. Venue hire is available at Woodland Montessori Academy (Mid-Levels), Repulse Bay Montessori, Beachside (Repulse Bay), Pokfulam, Harbourside (Aberdeen), and Sai Kung Pre-Schools. For further information about parties call 2559 4855 or visit [www.woodlandschools.com](http://www.woodlandschools.com)

### Arty in the dark

Let your little artist go wild with an art party in the dark at Hong Kong's blacklight art studio, Sketch Studios. They hold blacklight/UV art sessions for kids that contain a mixture of painting, music, drawing, using chalk

on walls, creative accessorising with neon items like masks, headbands, bracelets, sunglasses, face paint and wigs. They also welcome parents and will open their rooftop for the oldies to hang out while the kids go crazy inside. You can even bring your own wine! Parties here start from HK\$250/person. [www.sketch-studios.com.hk](http://www.sketch-studios.com.hk).

### Ready steady laser

Laser Mads is a spaceship-themed laser tag venue based in Causeway Bay. Kids can run around playing team games which encourage bonding and quick responses. Various options are available, depending on the size of your group and the time slot, including booking out the whole venue from \$3,188. Tag to [www.lasermads.com](http://www.lasermads.com).

### Bounce buddies

Give your party some air time at a trampoline session at Bounce Inc. where inhibitions will be thrown sky high! Packages (for a minimum of 10 trampoliners) include an hour of high-octane fun plus a party room complete with snacks and drinks, from \$280/p. Bounce along to Kowloon Bay at [www.bounceinc.com.hk](http://www.bounceinc.com.hk).

### Taste of Italy

Jamie's Italian in Causeway Bay offers two options for children's birthday parties. For \$250 plus 10% per child, 10-20 little ones are given a tour of the restaurant followed by a pizza making class. They will participate in a short, fun talk on food and nutrition before enjoying the feasts of their labour. This option is available daily between 3pm and 4.30pm. Or, for the same cost but without the minimum head count, join the public event which is the last Sunday of every month. For party bookings contact [wendytai@bigcatgroup.co](mailto:wendytai@bigcatgroup.co).

### Sweet success

Children can get their hands messy, but lick-able, while crafting cookies



Hyatt Regency



Dummers Ark



Fites



James Italian

at family favourite Frites. Frites' kid's parties are available weekend afternoons with meals and drinks (perhaps a sneaky glass of wine for the parents?), plus optional entertainment add-ons. Frites restaurants have dedicated play areas where partygoers can even be mini baristas. Taste sweet success at [www.frites.hk](http://www.frites.hk).

### Rock star party

Budding musicians will be delighted to party at the Drummers Ark. This is your child's chance to be inside a real life music studio and taste the life of a rock star. It's a great option for really big kids, too. The spacious 1000 square foot space comes with a stack of party gear including a stage, great audio system, Playstation 4, massive projector, musical instruments, games and more. [www.drummers-ark.com](http://www.drummers-ark.com).

### Arty crafty

Get creative with Seedling's range of themed arts and crafts activities (for

groups of up to 10). Mini fashionistas will adore dressing up, whilst sea-faring pirates will delight in seeking buried treasure. Packages include themed decorations, venue hire, crafting activity, group photo and e-vites. From \$3,800 - with optional catering or BYO food. Click for more at [www.seedling.com.hk](http://www.seedling.com.hk).

### Ding ding!

It's all aboard a traditional Hong Kong Ding Ding with a tram tour. See the city's sights from atop a vintage tram on a trundle along the tracks. Their catering service, with a variety of choices, will add to the celebrations. Otherwise, take your own picnic for the ride. Prices from \$1,000 per hour (minimum two hours hire). Get on board at [www.hktramways.com](http://www.hktramways.com).

### Arty party

Create a unique colourful canvas, t-shirt, sculpture, craft, 3D model or collage at Anastassia's Art House. These creative venues have packages

from \$320 per child (minimum of 10 guests) for two hours of memorable arty fun. Extra add-ons include party bags and invitations. Discover more at [www.arthouse-hk.com](http://www.arthouse-hk.com).

### Get close to the animals

Ocean Park offers special VIP Premium Tours as well as up-close animal encounters (including penguins, dolphins and pandas). Combine excitement with education, along with rocking those rides. Eat at Neptune's Restaurant and be enthralled by the marine life before your very eyes. Learn more at [www.oceanpark.com.hk](http://www.oceanpark.com.hk).

### Make sweet music

Hosting a musical party at Baumhaus will certainly hit the right note! Celebrations at this creative venue include private studio hire, playroom access and a special Kindermusik or Drama class for the group. Open daily and conveniently based in Admiralty. Hear more at [www.baumhaus.com.hk](http://www.baumhaus.com.hk).

# Party Entertainers

## Disco diva

Kids too old for princesses and magic tricks? This might just be the party for you – RF Discos is the latest venture from Rumble and Friends. Aimed at tweens and teens, it provides a professional disco set up with PA system, DJ mixer, lighting rig and special effects. Younger kids are catered to with air guitar and limbo competitions, while older kids are fully chaperoned and watched, but allowed to spend their time freely (without parents). RF Discos travel all over Hong Kong and can set up at any venue. Packages start from HK\$6,000. Rock your socks off with [www.rfdiscos.com](http://www.rfdiscos.com).

## Drama

Chunky Onion is a local specialist events management company that helps create truly theatrical celebrations. Their fully trained performers will thrill with themed parties, arts & crafts, henna painting, magicians and more. Add some drama to your event and create amazing, awesome fun. Check out [www.chunkyonion.com](http://www.chunkyonion.com).

## Party boppers!

For the past 18 months, children across Hong Kong have been partying and dancing – or bopping – to a new kind of beat, courtesy of the popular entertainment company NattyBop. NattyBop provides party entertainment for children aged one to eight years. Each child is different so NattyBop tailor makes a list of activities to perfectly suit the birthday boy or girl. Guests are encouraged to dance to the best of their ability and participate in fun, friendly competitive games. Every party promises to be a unique and memorable celebration with the help of NattyBop. To get your groove on visit [www.nattybop.com](http://www.nattybop.com).



Chunky Onion



RF Discos



## Party Suppliers

### Big bouncers

Bring a new dimension to your event by hiring a bouncy castle from Bouncy Kids. There's a whole host of quality shapes and sizes to choose from, including castles and jungles, as well as water slides. The company also offers entertainment, from clowns and magic to bubble shows. Jump to [www.bouncykids.hk](http://www.bouncykids.hk).

### Party on

Partytime caters for parties for all age groups and has a wide range of imported items including balloons, giant pinatas, party bags, favours and imported sweets. Hot items at the moment are Shopkins, Pokemon and Happy Jackson party supplies. Partytime stores are located in Prince's Building, Central and Times Square, Causeway Bay and in November two new stores will be opening in Repulse Bay and Discovery Bay. [www.partytime.com.hk](http://www.partytime.com.hk).

### Boutique offerings

For something special try Simply Love for masses of boutique options and international brands. This one-stop party supply store specialises in decorations,

balloons, goodie bags, tableware, decorations and more, all with a touch of uniqueness. Their staff will happily offer advice to ensure an unforgettable event. Visit their store in Lan Kwai Fong or click [www.simplylove.com.hk](http://www.simplylove.com.hk).

### Poppy's trunk

If you'd like to give your little one (or yourself) a truly individual party, look no further than Poppy's Trunk. Specialising in candy bars, party packages, personalised cards and detail oriented customer service, Poppy's Trunk will give you a unique party that runs seamlessly. [www.poppystrunk.co](http://www.poppystrunk.co).

### Easy option

Another favourite one-stop shop is EezyPeezyParties who make party planning a piece of cake. They organise the event from start to finish, including invites, caterers, entertainers, gift registry and even pictures. In fact, all you have to do is choose the theme and the guests! Make it easy at [www.eezypeezyparties.com](http://www.eezypeezyparties.com).

### Party festivities

For convenient online shopping The Party Boutique is hard to beat and delivers direct to your door. Shop in comfort to make your special occasion extra special with party hats, balloons, banners, tableware and even piñatas.

They have a vast range of styles and themes to suit any occasion. Make it special at [www.partyboutique.com.hk](http://www.partyboutique.com.hk).

### Food glorious food

Shamrock has been catering all sorts of occasions since 1994. They offer a wide selection of reasonably priced, tasty treats for children's parties. All you have to do is fill in the online la carte order form, tick whether you'd like it delivered and you're sorted. [www.shamrock.com.hk](http://www.shamrock.com.hk).

### Let them eat cake

Complete Deelite is well-known for their fabulous, show-stopping cakes. There are cute cake pops, colourful cupcakes and centrepiece cakes (including castles, pirates and animals). Rest assured only crumbs will be left! They also sell balloons, cookies (great for party bags) and baking supplies. Get sliced at [www.completedeelite.com](http://www.completedeelite.com).

### Classic cakes

BallinBakes specialises in quality, classic cakes, which can be paleo-friendly (with no sugar, gluten or dairy). Eat your heart out with the classic Carrot Cake or opt for a Super Hero or frosted rainbow option. Chocoholics will adore the chocolate ganache with themed fondant decoration. Make life sweet at [www.ballinbakes.com](http://www.ballinbakes.com).