

MAKING SCIENCE FUN

It was a tall order: football and rounders on a sunny afternoon, or a 'science lesson'? We had organised two entertainments because it was a mixed age group party (7-11 year-olds), girls and boys, and lots of them (about 35). Apart from the diehard footballers, the science bit was such a success that it was a



hard work to tear the kids away to play rounders.

Lawrence from Science Wizards started with a few demonstrations. How to get a boiled egg into a narrow bottle neck got the questions and answers flowing, including younger children and challenging the older ones. The promise of getting their hands dirty held the most appeal. Everyone had a chance to make their own slime and mini rockets. The rockets, which they made using bicarbonate of soda and just water, was a complete hit and there were rockets going off all over the place. Last but not least,

he demonstrated the Mentos and Diet Coke firework concoction, which I had first seen on youtube a few years ago (type in 'Diet coke + Mentos' for an hilarious display). It brought tears of laughter and amazement from the gathering crowd in the park where the party was held. Lawrence is a born entertainer and held court from beginning to end. Highly recommended.

£180 for a standard 60 minute slime or rocket party for up to 15 children.

£210 for an extended 75 minute party with both slime and rockets.

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During the Easter holidays Rory, my 8 year old son had a bit of a treat!

In early April I was contacted by Ian Lambert who runs a company call Science Wizards. Ian was interested in promoting his company and asked if I could help! Science Wizards is a childrens party company who bring science to life and make it fun with this interactive party idea!

So last week Ian came over to my house with one of his local party presenters called Ella, and treated Rory and some of his friends to the Science Wizards experience!

I was sure Ian and Ella hadn't needed to use their Sat Nav to find us, our collection of eight year old boys could be heard from miles away! The Science Wizards didn't seem phased!

Ella changed into her white coat, and the boys became intrigued, she wasn't exactly the mad professor type Rory had imagined but she certainly caught their interest. They all gathered around and Ella had them captivated. First off an exploding bottle of Cola; the contents shot into the air to the delight of the boys. This was just some cheap Cola with some 'Mintos' added, so simple but very effective. Ella chatted away to the boys explaining the science principles behind the exploding Coke, as she prepared the next activity; getting an egg

Science in the Garden!



into a small topped bottle? There were lots of suggestions from the audience involving hammers and smashing actions! But they were amazed that by warming the air in the bottle the egg was sucked in all on its own! Wow – then it came out again with a bit of help from Ella, and it was still in one piece.

Next it was time for the boys to get really stuck in, Slime making all round, they really loved this as you can imagine, a mixture of PVA glue and Borax (which is old fashioned soap powder) and various different shades of food colouring, produced a great selection of slime. Which when manipulated turned into bouncing balls. Much fun all round, this was then popped into a named pot which listed the ingredients and had a use by date on it to take home. (No need for party bags when there's slime around!)

After the slime it was time to make rockets, the boys were really busy, and all of them really concentrated on making their rockets, Ella and Ian were very good with the boys and offered encouragement

and a little help if needed, although they mostly managed well on their own.

Then everyone got to watch as their rockets shot into the air, I can't quite remember all the details but this involved effervescent vitamin C pills! These rockets certainly stretched my photography skills to the limit they shot off and caused much hilarity in our garden! Again rockets were taken home by the children.

The parties can be tailored to fit the ages of the children and the numbers of guests, and can be held at home or in a hall.

All the activities are Risk Assessed for Safety, and the Science Wizard presenters are CRB checked. (Criminal Records Bureau)

We had a really great afternoon, it was great to see the boys actually learning without realising it and having such fun at the same time. Thank you Ian and Ella do pop round any time!

Look Local, Rory, Jack, Jonathan, Stan, Nathan and Lewis all give you the thumbs up!

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