

Twelve *Essential* Things to Look For When Booking a Face Painter

So you're holding a party or running a company event and you need to book a face painter to occupy your guests. Below are the 12 most essential things that you will need to look for when hiring that all important children's entertainer to ensure you are getting exactly what you want and expect, along with value for money.

1. **Is the face painter from an established and recognised company?**

Quite often friends will opt-in to help you out at your event saying that they can do the face painting for free. With all the best will in the world – is that really what you want, after all she may be your best friend or acquaintance, but can she actually do competent face painting?

2. **Is the face painter going to arrive at your event fully equipped with everything that they need to complete the service booked?**

If you agree to your friend having a go at the face painting – how much will you be splashing out in order to purchase the make-up, sponges, brushes, glitter, water pots, baby wipes, towel, etc. At the end of the day, it all adds up to a tidy sum.

3. **Is the face painter actually coming to your event?**

Time and time again people book a face painter only to be let down by them the week before, the day before, and even on the day itself, for whatever reason they feel fit to give you as an excuse! Panic ensues as you then have to organise hurried entertainment to keep the little ones amused.

4. **Is your face painter going to arrive on time to your event, or leave you standing there not knowing if they are coming or not?**

Birthday Parties and Company Events are run on tight schedules over an allocated time-frame. Whether you're a Mum or Dad hosting a child's party or an organiser of a community event – you need everything organised and in place from the on-set, where nothing is left to chance.

5. **Is the face painter able to paint all the children at the event comfortably without over-running on the time allowed for the service?**

The typical issues concerning a face painter over-running on their time is that some of the children may not get a chance to be painted – which inevitably leads to floods of tears and tantrums (and that's just from the mother of the unpainted child)! Ensure that your face painter has the necessary speed in order to fulfil the commitment of working on as many children as you have agreed on in advance.

6. **Is the face painter pitching their prices at the cheaper end of the market, and offering you a huge discount?**

Almost always, any face painter who offers their service for a really cheap hourly price can usually only paint between 8-10 faces per hour. If your party is for say 15 children, you would need to book them for two hours and if your event is for 20-25 children the booking time goes into three hours. This is known as a 'false economy' – it may look cheap and appealing but the face painter will need to be booked for multiple hours as they are not able to speed paint.

7. **Is the face painter pitching their prices at the higher end of the market?**

Almost always, any face painter who is considerably higher in price than a lot of their competition sets their prices according to the value that they bring to the event. The quality of the service that

they provide is reflected in their price, and this can be anything from their experience, their unique and certain style of face painting, their fast ability and speed, and their status within the industry. As the old adage goes – ‘You pay peanuts - you’ll get a monkey’.

8. **Is the face painter smart and presentable, which will reflect in their work, or are they a Sloppy Joe, which will also reflect in their work?**

A smart appearance goes a long way – regardless of whether it’s a face painting event in a grassy field out in the country or a plush corporate building or superstore. If your face painter arrives in grubby jeans and a sloppy hoodie, you will know what to expect with regards to their set-up, customer care and working practices.

9. **Does the face painter understand the implications of working on children with skin diseases and skin disorders?**

Face Painting without infection control can be an exciting breeding ground for germs seeking reallocation. Does the face painter know how to maintain a state of cleanliness sufficient to prohibit the growth of bacteria with regards to contra-indications that will either prevent or restrict the make-up application?

10. **Has the face painter been adequately trained in the industry standards, codes of practice and event protocol?**

We live in a claims conscious society and these days anything to do with health and safety (especially when working on and around children) must take precedence over anything else. Most people regard our industry as ‘just a little bit of face painting’ and have no regard to the extensive and thorough training that has been undertaken in order to provide a safe working environment.

11. **Does your face painter have the minimum of £2million public liability insurance or £5million employer’s liability insurance?**

It is essential that your face painter has the necessary insurance in place to carry out the service booked. As a guide they should have an indemnity that covers them for £2million minimum, or if they are working for a face painting company then their employers should have a policy in place to protect and safeguard them as well as you the booker. CRB checks are not an essential practice for our industry as the face painter is not (and should not be) in sole care of the children at your event. They are however desirable to have.

12. **Does the face painter know how to organise the line and how to cut off the queue at the end of the session?**

Making sure that the face painting line is organised and in control plays an important part in providing an exemplary face painting service. Just like a good bartender, the face painter should know who the next person is waiting to be served. It's usual to get those little ones who accidentally push in or join the line at wherever they like, so it is important for the face painter to be in touch with those who are waiting. Should your event be booked for a specific time-span, an organised face painter should know how to diplomatically stop anyone else joining the line (cutting off the queue) well before the time is up.

.....

This report was written by Mimicks Face Painting who have been working in the industry since 1990. Should you have any further questions or concerns regarding booking a Face Painter at your event then please feel free to telephone Sherrill or Ashlea on **023 8025 5894**.

Emails can be sent to: info@mimicks.co.uk

Visit our websites at:

www.mimicks.co.uk for all your service needs

www.facepaintingtraining.com for all your training needs

www.facepainting.uk.com for all your product needs