



The Boiler Room Climbing Gym
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(A division of Breakthrough Associates Inc)

Dear Parents,

Your child's group is planning a field trip to our facility. We've had extremely positive feedback from all group visits to The Boiler Room. We are providing this letter to help you understand the concept of a climbing gym and to let you know exactly what your child will be doing on his or her visit.

Indoor wall climbing is a sister sport to traditional outdoor rock climbing with some important differences. An indoor climbing gym has sculpted hand and foot holds all over the walls, from floor to ceiling, with safety ropes permanently installed. The indoor environment allows us to create interesting climbing routes of any difficulty level from beginner to world class. We currently have 35 different routes and a 100' high chimney -- the highest indoor climb in Canada.

Climbing is a sport that challenges a participant in many different ways -- physical strength plays a part, but equally important are attitude, strategy, and flexibility. Climbers as young as 3 have scaled the 30ft (9m) walls at The Boiler Room but most begin seriously at age 7 and older. The sport is very popular with teens, young adults and fitness conscious parents.

While climbing at height, participants wear a safety harness, which is tied into a rope system. This safety rope system can be operated by anyone 14 years of age and older, who has been thoroughly trained and certified by the gym's staff. First time climbers aged 14 or older always start with a lesson to ensure a complete understanding of the rope and harness system as well as basic knowledge about climbing. We teach them how to operate the safety ropes (belaying) and how to tie the rope to the harness. We usually staff at a ratio of 6:1 for this training. Children under 14 are welcome to climb, but do not operate the ropes -- this is normally done by parents or other volunteers brought by the group.

Please note that the attached **Informed Consent Agreement** must be completed and signed by a parent or legal guardian for those under the age of 18. Our insurance company is very particular about this form and we cannot accept incomplete forms. Although this form is a bit intimidating, we can assure you that we have had many thousand visits to the gym with no significant accidents. We conform to or exceed all of the OIA Climbing Gym Association's safety standards for procedures and equipment.

We look forward to working with your son or daughter in our gym. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us, or stop by to see our facility for yourself. We'll be happy to show you around and answer your questions. Although we open for groups of 8 or more at any time, our regular hours are:

Monday - Friday 4:00pm to 10:30, Saturday & Sunday 10:00am to 7:00pm.

Sincerely,

Martin Honig and Cathy Wills, Owners

