Balloon Modelling Risk Assessment

Bubbly Heaven / Little Party Heaven, trading names of Cheryl Holley · Applies to: Cheryl Holley and any contractor doing balloon modelling

Assessed by: Cheryl Holley · Updated: 5 November 2026

Hazard	Who is at risk	What we do	Risk (severity / likelihood)
Choking or suffocating on burst or uninflated balloons	Young children, animals	No balloons for children under 3. Children under 8 must have an adult with them. A carer must be with any child given a balloon. Uninflated balloons are kept in a closed bag, out of children's reach. We pick up any burst pieces we see during the session and ask adults to do the same. Parents are told not to let children bite balloons or put pieces in their mouths. Balloons are never blown up by mouth, as children copy. A warning sign is displayed at the balloon table where possible. Children are reminded, where possible, not to give the balloon to anyone under 3 and to hand popped pieces to a grown-up. Adults are told the balloon still needs watching after the event. In the car, the driver cannot see what a child is doing with it, so a balloon for a child under 8 is kept out of reach while driving, or held by another grown-up.	High / Very low
Lights inside balloons (button batteries)	Young children	The lights contain 2 small button batteries, which can kill if swallowed. The manufacturer says the lights are not suitable for children under 8. Light-up balloons are only given to children 8 and over. If a grown-up asks for a light-up balloon for a child under 8, it is given to the grown-up, not the child. Grown-ups collecting a light-up balloon are given safety advice: take the light out as soon as the balloon pops or goes down, and keep it out of children's reach. If a child may have swallowed a battery, go to A&E straight away.	High / Very low
Glow sticks inside balloons (no battery)	Young children	Some balloons may have a small sealed glow stick inside instead of a light. Glow sticks have no battery. We only use glow sticks sold as CE or UKCA marked for ages 3 and over. A glow stick is a small part, so glow-stick balloons follow the same rules as any other balloon: ages 3 and over only, with an adult. If a glow stick is chewed or snapped open, the liquid inside can sting the skin, eyes or mouth: rinse well with water and bin the stick. Grown-ups are asked to take the glow stick out and bin it once the balloon pops or goes down.	Low / Very low
Sticker eyes on balloons	Young children	Stickers are only added to balloons for children 3 and over. We ask adults to pick up any stickers as soon as a balloon pops or is finished with, and keep them away from little ones.	High / Very low
A parent asks for a balloon for a child under 3	Child under 3	The balloon is given to the parent only, to keep out of the child's reach. What we say: “I don't give balloons to under-3s, as they're not safe for little ones to play with or put in their mouths. I'm happy to make one for you to keep for them – please keep it out of their reach, and if it pops, bin every piece straight away.”	High / Very low
Choking: older child or adult who puts things in their mouth	Anyone who mouths objects, any age	Balloons are not given to anyone, of any age, who puts things in their mouth. If a carer asks for one, it is given to the carer to look after, with the same advice as for under-3s. If unsure, we ask the carer.	High / Very low
Mild allergic reaction to latex	Person handling balloons	We ask about allergies when booking (enquiry form) and on the day. Anyone with a latex allergy is not given a balloon and does not touch balloons or popped pieces. They are offered something else instead, such as a sticker, a bubble wand or face painting.	Low / Low
Severe allergic reaction to latex	Audience	The organiser is asked about latex allergies when booking. If a guest has a severe allergy, balloons are swapped for other entertainment. On the day, anyone with an allergy stands back from the balloon area, because latex can get into the air when balloons pop. Hands are washed before face painting anyone with an allergy. If there is a reaction, the parent uses the child's allergy pen and 999 is called. The organiser is given this risk assessment.	High / Very low
Loud noise	People close to the modeller	Don't inflate balloons close to people, especially young children. Keep a clear space around the work area.	Low / Medium
Injury to face from balloon pump	Children	Don't inflate close to people. Keep a clear space.	Low / Low
Balloon anxiety	All participants	Give the organiser this risk assessment so they can warn guests that balloons will be there.	Medium / Low
Spread of infection	Modeller	Don't touch a balloon a child has touched or put in their mouth.	Medium / Medium
Rupture from mouth inflation	Modeller	Balloons are never blown up by mouth.	Low / Low
Claim against modeller	Modeller	Modeller holds public liability insurance. Only the modeller uses the pumps.	Low / Low

Environment: no significant risk. The latex is 100% biodegradable.