

KRACKERS KIDS THEATRICAL AGENCY

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THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW!

Auditions tend to be arranged at the “last minute”. This is not our fault! We will let you know immediately we are given a casting, but we will sometimes be given a call late in the evening for an audition the following morning! We usually have about 1 weeks notice for “show” auditions, but never more than 2 days for commercials. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to gain auditions for every child on our books, although we do guarantee that we will make every effort on behalf of every child. Auditions tend to be rather like buses – none for ages, then 3 come along at the same time!

The majority of auditions are held in London, and wherever possible we try to arrange these for after school or holiday times. Sometimes the children will receive a casting fee for attending an audition, but this is not always the case. Casting fees are never paid for TV, film or stage auditions – only for commercials. Parents will be expected to take their own children on individual auditions – we will provide a licensed chaperone for any “group” auditions.

If children are taken by chaperone on an audition, you will be expected to pay travel expenses for the child and chaperone. If you are taking your own child on an individual audition, you should take with you an A – Z of London (auditions are always in hard-to-find places), a tape measure (you will have to fill in measurement forms), Krackers phone numbers (to put on the audition form), and food, drink and games (a pack of cards is very useful!) to occupy your child for several hours if necessary. It is quite usual to wait for 2 hours for an audition that lasts for 30 seconds – this does not necessarily mean that the casting director is not interested in your child, but it is VERY frustrating – we know – we’ve been there! If you should be “running late” at any time, you must inform us so that we can let the casting agency know. They get VERY annoyed when people are late for appointments (they, of course, are allowed to run hours late!!).

Fees for professional engagements vary enormously. Theatrical work pays from £20 per performance, Photographic work pays from £45 - £100 per hour depending on age, BBC work is notorious for being poor!! TV commercials are the most highly paid – the normal amount is anything from £40 for “extra” work, up to £600 for one day’s filming (including buyout fee). Our agency record to date is a 6 year old boy who earned £11,000 for 2 days filming!!!!

Children have to have a license in order to work professionally. This is granted by your local education authority and will be arranged by us or the production company as and when needed. It is very important that your child’s school is prepared to support you, as they will need to supply a letter confirming this should your child gain work for any period of time. The Licence also requires 2 passport sized photographs, a copy of the child’s birth certificate and a Doctor’s certificate of fitness to work. Doctors often charge for this but it is valid for 6 months from the date of issue.

When your child goes on an audition, please give us a call to let us know how it went. Casting directors will contact us to let us know if a child has a re-call or gained an engagement, they should not contact you directly. If this should happen, please tell them to call us and then call us yourself to let us know they have been in touch. Production companies are quite “sneaky” at times, and will contact parents directly to avoid paying a re-call fee. Informing us will not affect your child’s chances of getting the job, they will just stand more chance of getting paid for it! Under some circumstances it is helpful for the production company to speak to you directly, e.g. the wardrobe department. If this is the case we will inform you that you will be receiving a call direct from the company.

Please note that if your child attends the Wenn Stage School that no reduction in the Wenn Stage School fees will be given for children missing classes due to auditions and/or professional engagements. This may also apply at other training schools so please ensure you are aware of their own terms and conditions regarding missed classes.

Finally, we hope that you all have a successful year with us! We know that this can all sound complicated and confusing – but you do get used to it – honestly!!! You just have to “expect the unexpected” and learn how to be in 2 different places at the same time!! If you need any more information, or have any queries, please speak to Kirstie or Diane on the telephone numbers above.