

BUSY KIDS

Rose Astor set up Busy Kids London last year after she organised a celebrity storytelling session while working as an actors' agent. 'Parents came up to me afterwards and asked what else was on offer,' she says, 'and I realised there was a gap in the market for original activities for kids. Actors and other professionals are very willing to work with children - it's a breath of fresh air and a huge but rewarding challenge for them,' says Astor, who recently married William and Harry's friend Hugh van Cutsem but has no children of her own, as yet.

You won't find Jamie Bell (a former client) teaching your three-year-old ballet just yet, but Astor could prove a canny investment for the parent convinced of their offspring's innate star quality. Her workshops, which cost from £30 per session, include the ever-popular Stunt Academy, in which kids work with real Bond film stuntmen and perform an end-of-day show for parents, and the Mini Movie in which they star in their own film, complete with authentic costumes, make-up and a DVD of the final movie. Then there's School of Rock, in which children write and record their own rock song - workshops cool enough for even the most self-consciously trendy teenager to attend.

- 'although if you can get the older ones into a gardening or charm-jewellery workshop, they're hooked.' If you're hoping for some fringe benefits from your financial investment (breakfast in bed?) there's the Busy Chefs cookery course. 'There's so much pressure at school, it's important for children to let down their hair and unwind,' says Astor. 'If the children go home and say, "I want to go back," then you know you're on to a winner.'

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Rose Astor of Busy Kids London.
All the girls wear dresses by Bunny
London (www.bunnylondon.com).
He wears top from Caramel
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