

Secrets To Planning an Unforgettable Birthday Party!



**TIPS, & SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE PARTIES
EXCITING, FUN, & UNFORGETTABLE!!**

- Great party games!
- Unique food ideas!
- Birthday party themes!
- How to choose the right entertainment!

***By David Jeffers
Children's Party Specialist***

Intro

Finally, a guide to help you and your child plan the perfect birthday party. As children grow-up, one of their most cherished memories is their birthday party. Long after the cake has been eaten and the ice cream has melted, the memories live on. That is why it is important to carefully plan and prepare for the perfect party.

This guide is filled with ideas and helpful hints to make your next party a success. You will learn the secrets to party planning. Included is a step-by-step checklist that will make your life infinitely easier.

This survival guide covers all aspects of giving a party. Learn the secrets to sending out invitations, preparing food, playing games, and deciding when to open the presents. Find out the six most common reasons why a birthday child will cry. Learn how to put together a party on a budget. Also, find out the best type of entertainment to hire.

Activities: When planning activities, break up the time into 15 minute segments, with a couple of emergency ideas just in case.

Time span: The party should be no longer than two hours. Two hours gives you plenty of time to play games, have entertainment, eat cake, and unwrap presents. Be sure to specify on your invitations the exact time the party begins and ends.

Size of the party: A popular formula to determine the number of guests is to invite one child per number of years of age of the birthday child. For example, a five year old would invite five kids. For younger kids, be sure to have extra help from family and friends.

Conflicts: Find out if any of your child's friends have previous commitments. This is especially important for their closest friends.

Nap time: Smaller children are used to a specific schedule which includes their nap time.

Party location: While most birthday parties are held in the home, booking your party at a restaurant or other party facility can cut your workload in half. If you decide to book one of these locations, be sure to make your reservations at least two months prior. Movie theatres, bowling alleys, roller rinks, etc. are also great locations for a birthday party.

To eat or not to eat: If you plan your party around a mealtime, 12 noon or 5 PM, you will be expected to feed the kids. Plan foods that children enjoy. Finger foods are great. See the section on FUN FOODS for some unique ideas.

Drinks: Clear or light colored liquids such as 7-Up, ginger ale, or white grape juice are best. They are caffeine free and won't stain carpet or furniture.

Cake: The cake is the centerpiece of the whole party. Order the cake at least two weeks in advance. Pick up the cake early in case there is a mistake that needs to be corrected.

Party Supplies: Party stores have a wide range of party favors to choose from. You can purchase a "theme" package which includes everything you need. Party bags are very popular. Pick out different party favors and place them in individual bags labeled for each child. The best time to hand out the party bags is at the end of the party when the kids are leaving.

Balloons: Order the balloons at least a week in advance. Kids love balloons and it is a great way to decorate the room. Hang some balloons on the mailbox as a beacon to help people find your house.

Supplies: Before the party be sure to have batteries and film in your camera. In this video age, charge the battery on your video camera and have enough video tape. Also, have a supply of large garbage bags and paper towels on hand. If the party is during the summer, have some sun block. A first aid kit should be close at hand for emergencies.

Music: Pick music that is age-appropriate. Kids love to listen and dance to music, especially if it is from their generation.

Gifts: The presents should all be in a specific area. The gifts should not be opened until the end of the party. Refrain from allowing the kids to open the boxes and take the toys out. Pieces are easily lost and feelings are hurt.

Movie time: A sanity-saving suggestion is to rent a children's movie for the end of the party. Waiting for the parents can be the hardest part of the party. A popular movie or cartoon will help keep the peace and set a calming atmosphere.

Pets: Protect your pets. Put your pets in a safe area away from the party. Some children play rough, and animals bite if threatened.

Involve the entire family in the party: Assign duties for each family member.

A Cost Saving Tip

Make your own invitations and party decorations. Your kids will love this special project, which will ultimately make the party more memorable. A personal computer can be used to make fun and colorful invitations, banners, and decorations.

Fun Party Games

No one should go home feeling like a loser! Avoid tears by selecting games that allow every child to succeed. Play at least one cooperative game where everyone works as a team and wins together.

- **Balloon Relay Race:** You need 2 teams in single file lines. Place a balloon between the knees of the first child in each line. When the race starts, the first child on each team turns to face the next child in line. The second child must grasp the balloon with his/her knees and turn to pass it to the next child and so on. If the balloon falls to the ground, the team must start over. The first team to successfully pass the balloon to the last child in line wins.
- **There's a Bug on my Back:** Place a sticker of a bug (or another picture) on the back of each child. Have the children ask only "yes" or "no" questions to the other children to try to figure out what pictures are on their backs. ("Do I have wings?", "Am I green?" etc).
- **Floating Balloons:** Every child receives a large inflated balloon. The object of the game is to throw the balloon up into the air and keep it afloat by tapping it up. The person that can keep his/her balloon afloat longest wins.
- **Bobbing for Donuts:** The preparation for this game requires tying a string through a small donut (one donut per child). Hang the donuts from a tree or something in your home. The donuts should be hung so they are at the levels of the children's mouths. The goal is to eat the entire donut without using their hands. This game is a great photo opportunity.
- **Balloon Wrestling:** Preparation requires putting a small party favor inside a balloon, then blowing it up. You need one balloon per child. Use these balloons as decorations for the party. At the end of the party, give each child a balloon. Tell the children to wrestle the balloon (by sitting on it, jumping on it, squeezing it) until it pops. Don't tell them there is a surprise inside and watch their expressions when they discover the secret prize inside the balloon.
- **Pin the Something on the Something:** traditionally pin the tail on the donkey, but this game can be changed to fit any theme.
- **Drop the Clothespin in the Bottle:** Use a coffee can with a plastic lid and cut the appropriate size hole in the lid based on the age of the children.

- **Go On a Treasure Hunt:** Scatter coins or small prizes in the yard and have the kids hunt for them. You can also do a paper clue based hunt with two or three small groups.
- **Guess How Many:** Fill a jar with candy, marbles, etc.

Fun Party Foods Kids Love

Bugs on a Log: Cut celery into 6” lengths and spread with peanut butter. Put raisins (“bugs”) along the length of the celery in an uneven pattern. Or you can have the children add their own “bugs.”

Pigs in a Blanket: Ingredients include hot dogs, cheese, refrigerator croissants. Cut the hot dogs lengthwise and cut the cheese into strips. Unroll the croissants and stuff them with hot dogs and cheese. Roll the croissants back up and bake as directed.

Jell-O Jigglers: purchase several packages of your child’s favorite jello flavor. Follow the directions on the package to make the popular Jello Jigglers. To make these treats more fun to eat, use cookie cutters to create fun shapes that match your party theme.

Silly-Face Pizza: use English muffins, pizza sauce, and shredded mozzarella cheese to make individual size pizzas. Use pepperoni, sliced olives, mushrooms, and green peppers to make a silly face or design to match the party theme.

Cupcake Cones: This is a great and non-messy idea for birthday cake. Fill flat-bottomed ice cream cones 3/4 full with cake batter. Bake, frost, and decorate. Easy to eat and NO DISHES!

Entertainment

- Children have a short attention span. Professional children entertainers are an invaluable resource in your party planning. A high quality magician, clown, or balloonist will be able to keep the children entertained for 30-45 minutes, and create a wonderful memory for the birthday child.
- Ask a lot of questions. Is the show age-appropriate? How long is the show? Ask for specifics; if they can’t tell you about their show, they may just “wing it” each time they perform.
- Ask the performer for a list of references and his/her experience.
- Contact the entertainer at least a month in advance. Quality performers are in high demand and you don’t want to miss out.

- Give the performer detailed directions and a contact phone number. If the entertainer doesn't confirm a week before the party, call with a friendly reminder.
- When the performer shows up for the party, be sure to introduce him/her to the birthday child. A good entertainer will make the birthday child the star of the show (have a camera ready). Relax and enjoy the show

Some Popular Party Themes

Teddy Bear Party

Carnival Party

Bubble Party

Cooking Party

Mad Scientist Party

Construction Party

Wizard of Oz Party

Backwards Party

Circus Party

Scooby Doo Party

Sponge Bob Party

Star Wars Party

Cowboy Party

Beach Party

Kite Flying Party

Scavenger Hunt Party

Train Party

Dress-up Party

Under the Sea Party

Barbie Party

Pirate Party

Lego Party

Madeline Party

Splash in the Backyard Party

Party Package Information

David has been performing at birthday parties for over 15 yrs. His programs can last anywhere from 45 minutes to nearly 2 hours, depending on your specific needs. He offers several different packages for the birthday parties, and if you choose our Platinum package with both Mr. J and CoCo the Clown, the only thing you'll need to do is serve the cake, and open the presents. It would be our pleasure to create a program tailored to your exact needs.

Silver Package

This package will keep your young audience on the edge of their seats. It features Magic, Puppetry, and a whole lot of fun. Watch as the audience takes an active role in the entire program. Many of them will find themselves up on stage helping Mr. J perform some amazing magic. The looks on their faces is priceless, and the birthday child is the star of the show.

Price - \$150 + Mileage & Traveling Expenses (If applicable)

Gold Package

This package includes everything in the SILVER Package as well as the following additions:

"Half Pint", the live Rabbit, becomes part of the magic show. The children just love it, and the special birthday child makes him appear.

More advanced magic effects are shown.

Mr. J also takes the time to let each child pet the Rabbit.

Price - \$175 + Mileage & Traveling Expenses (If applicable)

Platinum Package

This program is the GOLD package with the additional features described below.

We start off with CoCo the Clown using face paint on each of the children; she then marches the children to where the magic show will be held. For the next 45 minutes, the GOLD package magic show takes place. After the show is over, CoCo makes a balloon animal for each of the children, including a special birthday crown for the birthday child.

Price - \$250 + Mileage & Traveling Expenses (If applicable)

CoCo the Clown Package

This package features CoCo the clown, and starts off with face painting for each of the children, followed by a 20 minute comedy magic show. CoCo finishes by making a balloon animal for each child, including a special birthday crown for the birthday child.

Price - \$125 + Mileage & Traveling Expenses (If applicable)

What Some Clients Say.....

The show was money well spent. I had no idea how a group of 12 four year olds would react. They were completely engaged from start to finish their reactions were priceless! I have recommended you to many friends".

Adrienne Romanowski - Birthday party mom

"Everything was great; it went smoothly, and the kids had a blast. The adults even enjoyed it. I would certainly consider hiring you again."

Amy Sage - Birthday party mom

Mr. J's magic show was throughly entertaining to young and old alike. I loved watching all of the children erupt in laughter at Mr.J and Brandon's antics. The children were thrilled to be a part of the magic. Thank You!"

Linda Bucher - Birthday party mom

David Jeffers (Mr. J) is an excellent magician and entertainer! I had 16 five year olds at my daughter's birthday party, and they had a ball watching Mr.J! I would highly recommend Mr. J to anyone looking for good quality children's entertainment."

Susan Piccillo - Birthday party mom

"Mr.J's show was wonderful! I was concerned that it would be difficult to keep the interest of 20 four to six year olds for an hour, but the show was so entertaining and age appropriate that the kids could have sat even longer! Also, the face painting was awesome! The kids and adults really enjoyed the entire performance. Well worth the price and would highly recommend Mr.J to others."

Jill MacSwan - Birthday party mom

Party To Do Checklists

The Party Date: _____

At Least Four Weeks Before the Party:

___ Choose date and time **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____

___ Choose theme **Theme:** _____

___ Complete guest list (**Use Back Of Form**)

___ Book entertainment **Entertainer?** Y___ N___

Entertainer: _____

Phone # _____

Website: _____

Arrival Time: _____ **Length Of Show:** _____

Other Info On Entertainer:

___ Decide on location **Location:** _____

At Least Two Weeks Before the Party:

___ Send invitations **Sent:** _____

___ Plan activity schedule

Activity Schedule:

___ Plan food **Food:**

___ Purchase party supplies **Theme:** _____

___ Order balloons **Store:** _____

___ Order cake **Bakery:** _____

At Least One Week Before the Party:

- Confirm cake order
- Confirm entertainment
- Phone any guest who has not RSVP'd

At Least Two Days Before the Party:

- Check camera/film
- Clean and childproof home
- Check video camera/batteries
- Purchase food for party

Day of the Party:

- Review party plans with child
- Decorate house
- Prepare food
- Secure pets
- Pick up cake/balloons
- Put balloons on mailbox
- HAVE FUN

