



Birthday Ideas

Games, Food Ideas, and Other Sure-fire Ways to Make Your Child's Birthday Unforgettable!!!

What to do, what to do?

First of all, sit down with the birthday child and discuss what type of party they would like. Theme parties are very popular and it gives you a good starting point if your child has a particular interest; like magic, Barney Pokémon and others. You can buy plates, napkins, games and cakes around a theme. This helps you in planning all the activities.

BE SURE to have prizes for both the winners and the second place team. The reason for the extra balloons is to allow a re-run if the kids enjoy it a lot!

Here are some ideas to make what they like even more fun for that special party:

Hot Dog People!

This is an easy way to make a hot dog even more appealing. Just cut the wiener along the sides and shape into a person and when you cook it, the dog will grow arms and legs!

Decorate with mustard or ketchup eyes and mouth.

Cupcake Cones!

Fill flat-bottom ice cream cones $\frac{3}{4}$ full with cake batter, bake, ice and decorate. Easy to serve, eat, and NO DISHES! (The batter rises to fill the cone.)

The Birthday Cake...

I suggest that you buy a small cake, just big enough for the family. Use this to light the candles and sing "Happy Birthday", then serve individual cupcakes to the guests.

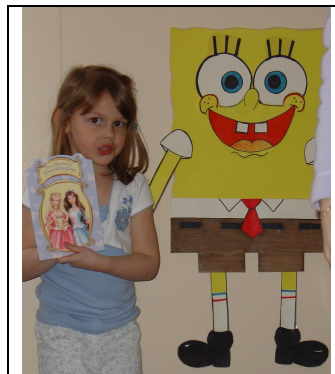
By saving the real cake for the family dinner hour, the whole family can share the birthday cake, a much appreciated plus!

✓ Checklist

Make a list of the items you will need. Don't forget common items like plastic dish and silverware, napkins and party favors.

PIN THE TAIL ON SPONGE BOB OR DINOSAUR?

Why not update the classic game of pin the tail on... Just draw the parts yourself on poster board and use "sticky back" Velcro for the parts. Anyone can draw something close to a brontosaurus!



Sponge Bob: Yellow poster board, Velcro, and separate face and body parts create a themed party game.



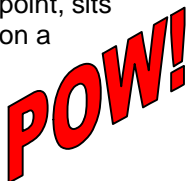
Fun Food for Kids & Friends!

One lesson that parents learn early is that kids eat what they like!

Games are an important part of any children's party. Here are a few ideas for your next party:

BALLOON RELAY RACE

Before the party, inflate about three balloons per child. Divide the guests into two teams. Each kiddo runs to a pre-determined point, sits on a



balloon, pops it, and runs back to tag the next runner. The first team to pop one balloon per child wins the race.

Compliments of:

TIPS FOR A HAPPY BIRTHDAY PARTY

- A. Tie a bouquet of balloons on your mailbox, front porch or apartment door so it's easy for your guests to find the party (not to mention your entertainment!). Have the birthday child select the balloon colors.
- B. Involve the entire family in your child's party. Assign duties for each. Perhaps one parent can be in charge of taking pictures. Maybe one of the siblings can introduce the magician when it's time for the entertainment. Another might hang up coats or prepare refreshments.
- C. Prepare your child for the party. You might play act or rehearse how you would like your child to answer the door, greet your guests and receive the presents. Discuss good manners and acceptable behavior for the party, and what areas are off limits (e.g. bedrooms). It's also important to give your other children a little extra love on the day of the party, remembering the limelight is on the birthday child.
- D. Protect your pets. I suggest that they be placed in a safe area away from the children. Some children like to play rough, and animals may bite if they feel threatened.
- E. Presents – You might want to consider having a large cardboard box handy to put presents in. The birthday child could decorate it with bright wrapping paper or simply color it. You might also purchase some stickers or labels, and put each invited child's name on two stickers. When the child arrives at the party, place one sticker on the present and the other on the card. That way, if the gift and the card get separated, you have two chances at being a little less creative with your thank you notes. Opening presents at the party is often a personal family tradition, but you may want to consider opening presents after everyone has left. This allows you to record every gift and discuss how thoughtful each friend was in giving it. It further prevents lost or broken pieces, a not unlikely result with twenty children scattering your child's gifts all over your living room. By waiting until later, you can also make it a fun family time, with everyone sharing the moment.
- F. When I'm asked "What food should I serve, and when?", I usually suggest light snacks, such as small finger-size hot dogs or pizza squares. (Cutting the pizza in squares makes it easier for small children to handle.) Apple juice is also a parents' favorite. Most party foods have sugar, which tends to make children unruly and difficult to deal with. For this reason, the food should come at the end of the party. If you feed the children up front, the sugar kicks in and it's every adult for themselves. So why not save that wonderful sugar high for later, when they go home! Another suggestion is that, instead of buying a great big birthday cake, you might purchase or make a small cake, just big enough for the family. Use this cake to light candles and sing 'Happy Birthday', then serve individual cupcakes, which can be handed out quickly and are less messy. And by saving the real cake for the family dinner hour, the whole family can share the birthday cake, a much appreciated plus, particularly if one of the parents must work at the time of the party and cannot attend.
- G. Let the birthday child select two friends to sit next to him/her when you serve the food. Have the birthday child sit down first, invite the two friends to join him, and then have all the other children find seats. Pre-assigned seating often results in tears for someone who wanted to sit with someone else. The only other suggestion here is that if it is a co-ed party, the birthday child might be asked to pick one male and one female friend to sit on each side.

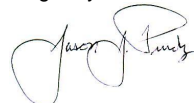
About The Author

I have been helping Moms & Dads create stress-free, awesome kids parties for over 18 years. I am a professional fulltime magician/illusionist and kid show entertainer.

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