



Planning a Great Birthday Party

To have a party that is a success you must remember some important tips.

The birthday party is for the birthday child and friends. With that in mind, pick age-appropriate entertainment, food, time, and length for the party.

1. If you are planning a birthday party for a child of preschool age, the maximum length of time is an hour and a half.
2. It is important to plan it before or after naptime, so that you don't have a group of sleepy, and cranky kids waiting to be entertained.
3. Music is a great choice for this age group, because it provides a great chance to move around and be active, without being destructive.
4. The party does not have to include a meal. If it does, pick easy, fun food. Finger sandwiches, sliced fruit such as apples or pears, tortilla rolls filled with your child's favorite filling such as cream cheese, jam, sliced turkey, or slices of cheese.
5. If you want to stick with dessert, cupcakes are a great way to go to keep things simple. If you pick one style you will not have to worry about running out of a favorite flavor.
6. You do not have to have the party at home. Wiggle, Jiggle and Jam will come to the location of your choice. You can have it at your preschool, restaurant, park, or your home.

Managing a party with more than one adult is a must.

1. Ask a friend, spouse, sister, brother, or grandparent to help with games, pass out juice boxes, and take care of minor boo-boos. Just be sure to reward them for their service when you pass out the cupcakes. If you don't expect any parents to stay, and you can't talk your best friend into helping, hire one of your regular baby-sitters to help you.

Have a plan for the birthday party activities.

1. As the guests arrive, have a craft activity ready for the children to create. Creating their own gift bags is a great starter activity. If you are having 2- or 3-year-olds, have age-appropriate toys ready to play with in a designated



play area. Stacking blocks, balls and push toys, are colorful and entertaining. Kids also love a bubble machine.

2. Fifteen to twenty minutes is a good time to judge that most everyone has arrived for the party. This is a great time to start the party entertainment. If you are booking a Wiggle, Jiggle and Jam birthday party show, this is a great time to have the music begin. The children will be engaged with musical activity for the next 30- 40 minutes.
3. After the music, encourage the children to use the bathroom and wash their hands.
4. Time to eat whatever you are serving.
5. For the end of the party plan cooperative games and stories. Cooperative musical chairs: Take away a chair each round, but all the kids stay in. The goal is to see how many kids can pile on the chairs when the music stops. Instead of working against each other, the kids help each other.
6. A calming option at the end of the party is to tell a call and response story. Mr. Wiggle and Mr. Waggle stories are great because they have a repeating structure and hand actions. They go up the hill and down the hill to visit each other. There are many versions on-line that are very easy to tell.
7. The party is done. Have treats for the kids to take home and thank everyone for helping to celebrate the special day.