

Birthday Party Planning Guide

Leave Boring Birthdays In The Dust!



Planning a Kid's Birthday Party

It's almost time for another birthday party, and you've spent hours trying to ask your child what gifts they want, who should come, and most importantly, what they want to do. But kids can change their minds a lot, and so planning a birthday event can be a real rollercoaster!

With all of these variables constantly changing, you don't have time to worry about the party plan, or have any last-minute issues with the venue. You need to plan birthday party that can actually make things less stressful for you while being enjoyable and memorable for your child.

Kids get bored pretty easily, especially these days with all of the fast-paced technology that they have available at their fingertips. Avoid the predictability of a boring backyard party where you have to do all of the preparations on your own. Instead, plan ahead to host your party somewhere memorable! There are many great venues and entertainment options, so if you plan in advance, you can put together an amazing birthday party that will survive even the most picky and fickle of kids.

Getting started planning now, whether it is weeks or months ahead, will help you plan a great party, prepare for any obstacles, stay within your budget, look like a hero to your child, and save your sanity!



Building a budget, schedule, and itinerary

No matter what your financial situation looks like, you need to make a budget for your child's birthday party. It's impossible to plan ahead and pick a venue if you don't have a clear vision about what you want the party to look like, and how much you want to spend. It's best to set your budget ahead of time, because it will make the entire party planning process much easier and much more enjoyable.

You may need to do some research and see how much certain venues and entertainment are before you can finalize a budget, but even deciding on an upper limit on how much you want to spend will help you make party planning choices. Setting a maximum budget means you can work backwards and decide how you want to spend that money.

Consider these elements of a great party when deciding how to divide your budget:

Venue

Date

Catering

Entertainment

Photography/
Videography

Transportation

Invitations

Decorations

Miscellaneous Costs



Building a budget, schedule, and itinerary ...continued

Keep these factors in mind when you plan your birthday party budget and you'll know how much you can spend and exactly how to allocate it. Without a budget, it's easy to get carried away with your spending.

Once you have a budget, you need to set a schedule leading up to the party and a day-of itinerary to make sure everything is taken care of and goes smoothly. Knowing in advance when you will need to meet with the event coordinator at the venue, pick up the cake, and pay your vendors will keep you sane during the weeks leading up to the party and will ensure that you don't forget anything important!

Don't just wing it during the party; having an itinerary will help you take care of all of the important facets of a birthday party (cake, presents, activities, etc.) without cramming it all in last minute. Sure, things may come up that delay parts of the party, but having an itinerary will help you keep the important events in mind while you corral the kids!



Selecting a Venue and Entertainment

So you've done the standard birthday parties at home, maybe even rented a bouncy castle, hired a clown or magician, and now your kids are getting tired of it. Maybe they're just too old for that kind of event, or their friends just threw a waterslide party that made them want to take it up a notch for their next party. Now, you want to plan something at a venue or entertainment center, something exciting that the kids will definitely love. So, what can you do? Here are a couple of exciting activities that have become birthday party favorites:

Paintball - Paintball has always been a favorite activity for all ages. Paintball is a lot of fun and is a safe way to pretend to go to war against your buddies. With a wide variety of game-types to play, like capture the flag and king of the hill, and plenty of different types of fields (inflatable cover, castles, forts, and nature), there is bound to be a setup that you will love. Get some glory stories and dominate your friends!

If you've planned an outdoor birthday party before, then you know the constant danger that a thunderstorm can pose. Nothing ruins a party faster than having to cancel last minute. So here are some ideas for an indoor birthday parties, safe from the risk of bad weather.

Family Fun Center – These range from full-size indoor playgrounds to massive arcades. Most places serve some food for the kids and offer them the opportunity to get to run around and play games. Always an easy solution!



Selecting a Venue and Entertainment ...Continued

Kid's Museum - While many kids aren't interested in regular museums with old artifacts behind glass, a kid's museum is focused on teaching and engaging kids through fun activities and interactive events, usually with a reserved area to set up camp and handle the standard birthday itinerary.

Movies - Taking the kids to a movie is usually a safe go-to, but it can feel too commonplace for a special birthday event. Plus, different parents let their kids see different types of movies, so it can be difficult to always pick the perfect one to accommodate everyone.

Bowling - This can be a great event for kids of all ages, thanks to bumpers. As long as the kids have the attention span to play a couple of games, this can definitely be a winner. Just make sure nobody drops a bowling ball on their foot!

Go Kart Racing - Many people don't realize, but electric go kart racing is a growing entertainment option, as whole tracks can be set up indoors and enjoyed year-round, regardless of weather conditions. Kids are guaranteed to have a great time racing their friends in a fun, safe, environment, all with a private party room to manage all the birthday celebrations. Definitely a sure-fire win with kids of any age!

The easiest solution to the potential for bad weather is to find a great indoor location to hold a birthday party. Nobody just wants to sit around, eat cake, and open presents. There needs to be an awesome activity to keep the kids entertained and provide some great birthday memories. All of these suggestions are guaranteed to be enjoyable for kids of all ages, and their parents too!



Preparing for curveballs

Every birthday party is going to deal with some unforeseen issues. But by planning ahead, you can be prepared for anything! There are a lot of things that you hope won't happen at a birthday party, but you just never know what will go wrong.

- **Entertainment** – If you hire a magician, clown, DJ, or any other kind of performer, there's always a risk they won't show or are just not what you expected. Meeting with them in advance will help you weed out the flakes, and you should always have a backup plan for entertainment as well.
- **Food / Drink** – You can avoid running out of food by knowing in advance how many people will be attending the party so you can make or buy enough. Most catering companies can help you estimate the right amount. Plus, you should know where the nearest grocery store is, just in case.
- **Recording Memories** – Whether you are hiring a photographer, videographer, or just having your brother-in-law take some pictures, you need to have a backup plan in case the technology goes on the fritz. Remember, most modern phones will handle photo duties quite well.
- **Bad Weather** – If you went with one of the indoor birthday party ideas earlier in this guide, then this won't be an issue, but if you plan an outdoor party then you should definitely keep an eye on the weather leading up to the event, and have an indoor backup plan in case a thunderstorm shows up.

No matter what kind of curveball gets thrown at you, you'll be ready to handle it all if you plan and prepare beforehand. Minimizing the number of variables that can go wrong will give you peace of mind, let you focus on making sure everyone is having a good time, and maybe even have some fun yourself!



Conclusion

If there's one takeaway from this guide, it is that you should plan your party in advance! From the budget, to the venue, to handling mishaps day-of, you can be sure that your party will be a great success by following these tips and planning in advance. It won't take that long, but it will save you so much time, money, and energy, and who doesn't want more of that? Planning a kid's birthday party can be stressful, but you'll be the envy of all of the other parents when yours goes smoothly because you took the time to plan it out in advance and pick something that your child will remember forever!

