

Steff and Nonsense Party Planning Tips

First you will need to decide on your budget, how long the party should last and where the party is to be held, for example at home or in a hall. If you go for a hall, choose one that comfortably suits your attendance numbers without being too big, as large empty spaces encourages children to run around more.

Send out parties as early as possible, to save clashes with friends' parties. Consider doing a joint party with another child to make it more affordable and to avoid having too many parties in the same weekend.

If your party venue is set back off the road, balloons tied around a nearby tree or lamp post is a great way to let your guest know where the party is.

Don't forget your camera and spare batteries - there will be many memories you won't want to forget.

Putting name stickers on the children as they arrive allows your entertainer to create a much more fun and friendly bond with the children.

For younger guests consider making a note of their parent's mobile number in case they become upset at missing them or in the event of an emergency.

Have a table or box ready for people to put presents in for the birthday child. Don't allow them to open presents until you get home, or presents may get lost and you won't know who to thank for them.

Paper plates, napkins, cups etc will mean a lot less work for you. Just don't forget the bin bags!

Ask a few mummy (or daddy) helpers to stay around, because when it comes to food time, you will need a few pairs of hands to pass plates around, refill cups etc.

Serve the savoury food first, then biscuits and cake second, so that the children don't stuff themselves with cake instead of eating sandwiches!

Bringing out the birthday cake and singing 'Happy Birthday' after the food allows you plenty of time to cut and wrap the birthday cake ready to pop into party bags.

Party bags are becoming the norm these days. These could include little inexpensive items such as sweets, a small toy, notebook, and pencil, stickers or toy jewellery.