

activity guide

barbie party



party planning checklist

6 to 8 weeks before the birthday party

1. Decide on the number of guests and develop a guest list.
2. If party will be held outside your home, select a location.
3. Choose a date and time.
4. If using an entertainer, call to book entertainer.

3 to 4 weeks before the party

1. Prepare and mail invitations.

2 to 3 weeks before the party

1. Keep a list of invitees near the phone for RSVP's.
2. Discuss and select 4 - 6 party activities with your child.
3. Collect prizes and items needed for activities.
4. If serving a meal, decide on the menu.
5. Order a cake (if you aren't baking one yourself).
6. Consider asking a favorite babysitter to help at the party.

1 week ahead

1. Decide on the order of activities.
2. Try any games or activities with which you are unfamiliar.
3. Check out any books or tapes you'll be borrowing from the library.

2-3 days ahead

1. Call any guests who have not responded.
2. Shop for groceries or other food being served.
3. Purchase any candy for favors or pinata.
4. Put favors together.
5. Prepare (copy, cut out, etc.) any crafts that can be done ahead.
6. Check camera. Charge video camera. Get film.
7. Locate matches for candles.
8. Bake any cookies or treats that can be made ahead.



The day before the party

1. Clean party area. Put away items that are dangerous or distracting.
2. Bake or pick up cake.
3. If ordering food such as pizza, call to arrange delivery.
4. If necessary, confirm entertainer or any helpers.
5. Sit with your child to discuss his or her expectations for the party.
6. For younger children, practice opening gifts and saying, "Thank you."



4 -5 hours ahead

1. Set table and decorate.
2. Put candles in cake and place matches nearby.
3. Get balloons filled or pick up helium balloons.

Present Pass

Place guests in a circle with the birthday child at the head. Have guests get their gifts and hold them in their laps. Begin playing some music as guests pass the presents slowly around the circle. When the music stops the present that the birthday child is holding is the next to be opened.

4. Tie some balloons to the mailbox or front porch.
5. Place crafts and prizes near the activity locations.
6. Locate paper and pencil for recording gifts (for thank-you's).

1 -2 hours ahead

1. Consider putting any pets in an area away from the guests.
2. Get birthday child and siblings dressed.
3. Set up food and let your child help as much as possible.
4. Set up first activity. . . . Have a great party!

food and decorating

A canopy can be formed over the center of table using colored streamers. Streamers should cascade from a bow in the middle to the sides of the room.

Balloons may be tied in bunches of three and tied to the backs of chairs or near the table.

Go to a thrift store (or your grandmother's cedar closet) and collect old hats, boas, gloves, scarves, dresses, shoes, costume jewelry - the fancier the better. You can also get old men's jackets, ties, and top hats. Put the dress-up clothes in an old truck, box or large basket in the party room.

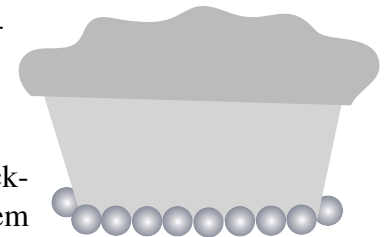
You can paint a fancy backdrop or arrange a staging area for picture taking (in costumes). If you don't have a Polaroid, then develop the pictures and send them with thank-you notes.

Note: You may want to ask guests to wear tightly fitted clothes like leotards, bike shorts, etc. so that their clothing doesn't inhibit the dress-up play.

Set up a makeup/vanity area with makeup and a full length mirror. Later, you can use it for the Beauty Salon Activity.

Cut out pictures of models from a magazine. You can paste them to cardboard and stand them up around the makeup area, in the center of the table or tie them to balloon strings.

Set up a separate small area for Barbies to have refreshments by laying out a colorful blanket or quilt. You can "set it" by using small doll plates, cups and silverware, which can be purchased inexpensively at most toy stores.



Purchase plastic beaded necklaces or bracelets and use them to ring cupcakes or drink cups.

Use flower or heart shaped-cookie cutters to make tea biscuits and sandwiches. Pink sandwiches can be created by



Linzer Hearts - makes 48

3 sticks of butter, softened
1 egg
1 cup cornstarch
1/2 cup red raspberry preserves

1 3/4 cup of confectioner's sugar
2 cups flour, sifted
2 cups of walnuts, finely ground

Cream butter and 1 cup of sugar until fluffy. Add egg and mix well. Sift together dry ingredients and add to creamed mixture. Stir in ground walnuts. Form into a ball, wrap in cellophane and chill for at least 4 hours. Roll to 1/4" thickness. Cut into heart shapes and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Chill for 45 minutes on pans. Preheat oven to 325F. Bake for 10-15 minutes until lightly browned. Remove from pan to cool. While warm, spread half of the cookies with preserves. Top with with another heart cookie. Dust tops with confectioner's sugar.

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Children's Punch - Serves 20.

2 cans of frozen lemonade
8 cans of cold water
3 quarts of regular or cranberry lemons

2 cans of frozen orange juice
2 cups of Grenadine
gingerale, chilled juice of three

Mix all together in a large punch bowl just before serving. Float orange slices and cherries on top. You may also wish to freeze part of the mixture in a heart-shaped cake pan to put in the bowl. Otherwise, add ice cubes.

activities

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Use flower or heart shaped-cookie cutters to make tea biscuits and sandwiches. Pink sandwiches can be created by

baking challah bread and using a few drops of red food coloring in the dough.

Use various Barbie accessories, such as purses, blowdryer, cell phone, brushes, etc. as cake toppers.

Line a hat box or shoe box with cling wrap and waxed paper and use to serve chips and other snacks.

Serve pink punch!



Jewelry Hunt

Before the party, collect inexpensive beads, rings, hair clips, and other costume jewelry

At the party, hide the items around the house or playing area (keeping them within a defined space). Hand each child a bag or pouch to hold the collected treasure. You may want to add each child's name to a bag or pouch.

Similar to an egg hunt, let children search until they find as much jewelry treasure as possible.



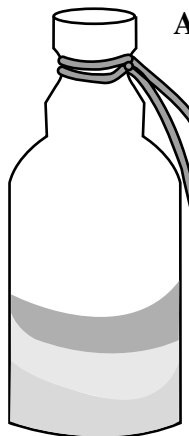
Edible "Sand" Art

This fun, edible "sand art" project is made with Pixie Stix candy.

Before the party, purchase small clear plastic bottles (1-2 ounces) which are normally used for sand art. The bottles must have a stopper or screw top. These can be found at most crafts stores.

If you can find the bottles on necklace cords, you will also need Rex lace (stretchy colored plastic lace) or cord to tie around the neck of each bottle (approximately 1 yard per child.)

Wrap the middle of the cord around the bottle's neck two times and knot tightly. Tie the two ends together to form a necklace.



At the party, each child opens a package of Pixie Stix and pours the candy "sand" from each straw into the bottle to form colored layers, alternating colors as the bottle fills.

Warn the children not to shake the bottle as they fill it with candy "sand" or the colors will mix. When the bottle is filled, seal it tightly to preserve the layered effect until ready to eat!

crafts

Teddy Bear Fingerpuppets

Before the party:

Copy the bear pattern onto thick white paper (80 pound or heavier would work well). If you do not have access to a copier, cut around the pattern and trace it onto thick, white paper. If your guests are six or younger or you have a large number of guests, you should



cut out the bears before the party. If seven or older, children probably enjoy cutting their own bears.

At the party, provide children with a bear, scissors, mark- decorative items such as buttons, sequins, ribbon, glitter and tulle to glue onto their bear puppet. Glue and let dry. Older children may want to create small outfits with their puppets.

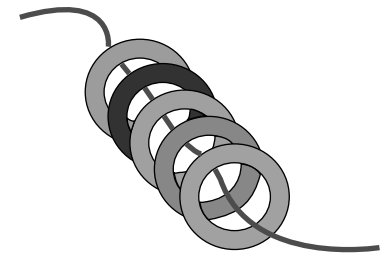
Edible Jewelry

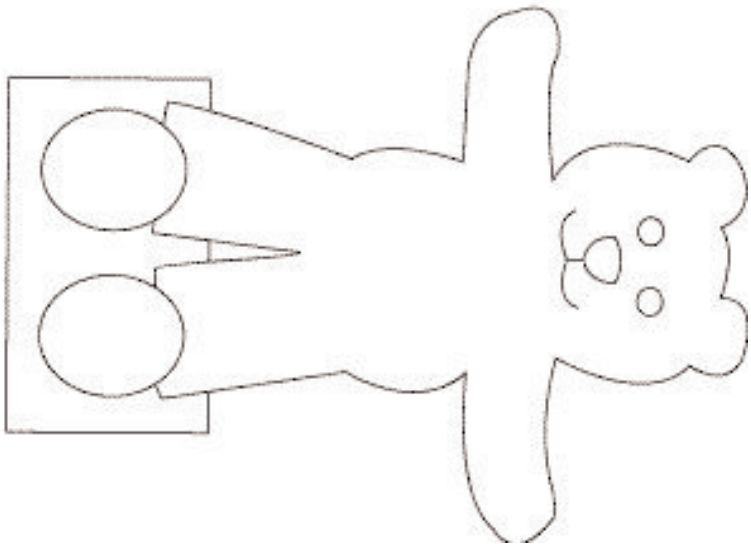
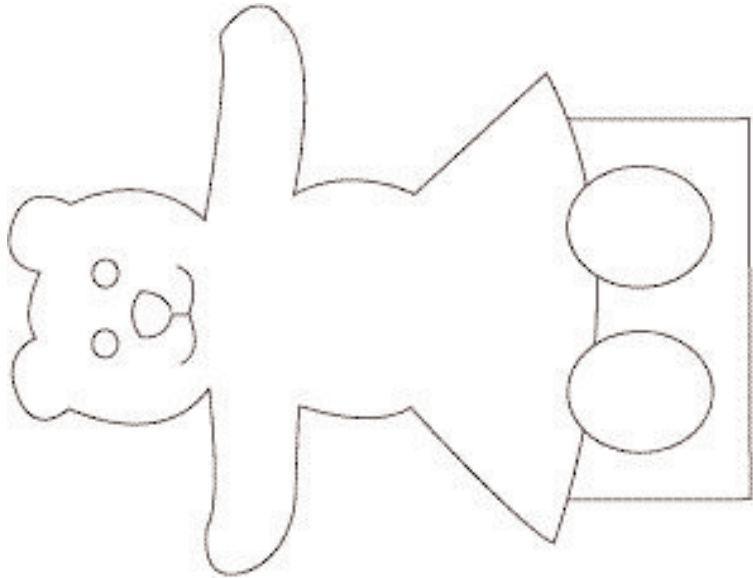
Making

This delicious jewelry is made from licorice strings, round candies, and cereal.

Before the party, buy candy and cereal and separate them by style or color into bowls. We suggest candy such as red licorice strings, Fruit Loops, Lifesavers, and Gummy Lifesavers.

At the party, children string candy onto licorice. When finished, wrap the strings around each child's wrist and tie the ends together.





fingerpuppet template

quiz time



Famous Girls Quiz

The object of this game is to correctly guess the names of famous girls from the clues given.

For children who are not yet writing, read each question aloud and let the guests shout out their answers. You may want to hand small prizes or candy to the children when they answer correctly.

Older children can be given paper and pencils so that they can write their answers as the questions are read.

Sample questions:

1. Who fell in love with a beast which released him from a spell? Beauty or Belle
2. What was the name of the girl in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" who loved to chew gum? Violet
3. What famous girl tried to get home to Kansas in a hot air balloon? Dorothy
4. What girl had a pig named Wilbur for a friend? Fern (Charlotte's Web)
5. Who chased a rabbit and found the Queen of Hearts? Alice (in Wonderland)
6. This girl and her brother get captured by a witch who lives in a gingerbread house. Gretel
7. This girl brings a basket of goodies to her grandmother. Little Red Riding Hood
8. This girl lived with seven little men. Snow White
9. This girl snuck into the bears' house and ate their porridge. Goldilocks
10. This girl was locked in a tower by a witch who climbed up the tower on her long, golden hair. Rapunzel
11. Who pricked her finger on a spinning wheel and fell into an enchanted sleep? Sleeping Beauty
12. Who longed to be a human so much that she sold her beautiful voice for a pair of legs? The Little Mermaid
13. This girl lived in Europe. She longed to be back in the mountains with her grandfather, so she left the family that she was living with in the city and returned to him. Heidi
15. Who is the tomboy who loved to write plays in "Little Women." Jo



Guests may enjoy making dress up or Barbie picture frames.

Before the party, purchase white cardboard frames or mats. You may want to spray paint the frames before the party.

At the party, children can glue small stickers or cutouts to the frames or color with markers. Let children pose for pictures in costume, then place them in the frame, or, mail the frames with a picture as a thank-you..

Tissue Paper Slipper Race

Before the party, cut slipper shapes from pink tissue paper. For indoor play, use masking tape to mark goal lines on carpeted area.

The game may be played one of two ways:

First Version:

Before the party, mark two goal lines about 15-20 feet apart. At the party, line the children up along the first goal line. Hand each child a straw and place a tissue paper slipper at each child's feet.

To start, the children place the straw in their mouths, bend down and inhale on the straw to pick up the tissue slipper and attach it to the end of the straw.

Once the slipper is attached, the children run to the goal line.

If a slipper drops off a straw, the child must attach it again before advancing.

The first child to cross the goal line with the slipper attached to the straw wins.

Second Version:

Before the party, mark two goal lines about 15-20 feet apart.

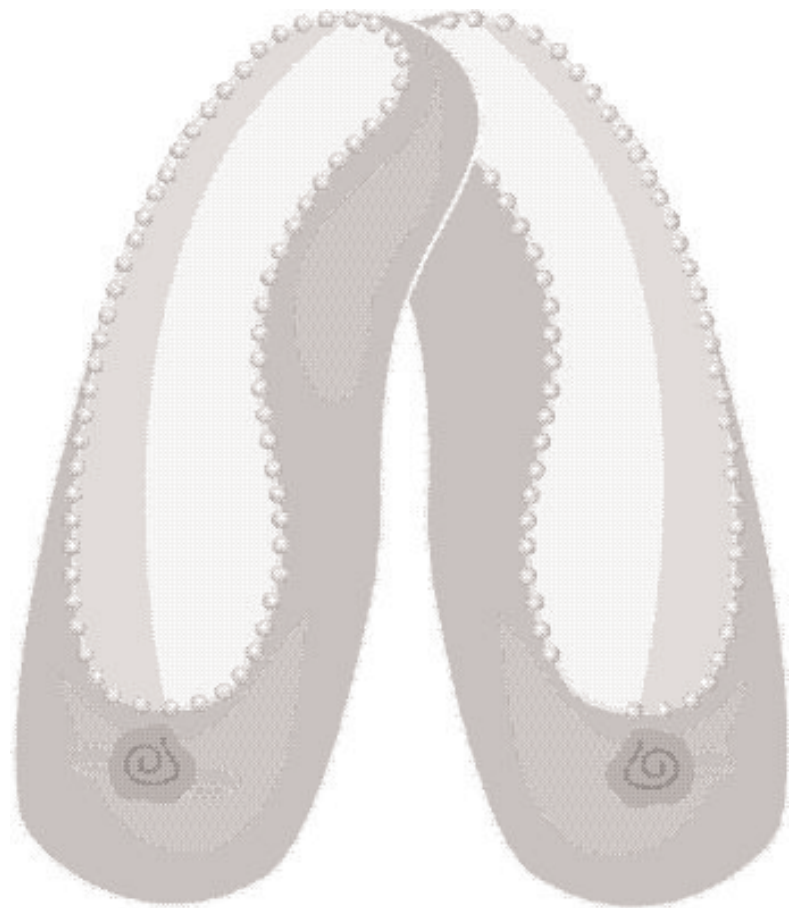
At the party, line the children up along the first goal line. Hand each child a square of newspaper and place a tissue paper slipper at each child's feet.

To start, the children use the newspaper to fan their slipper along the ground until the slipper crosses the opposite goal line.

The first player to fan her slipper across the goal line wins.

You can also play this team relay race.





tissue paper slipper pattern

rainy day and quick activities



If party day turns out to be rainy, or maybe you just need a couple more short activities to fill the time, the following can be quickly set up to keep the fun going!

Rain Art - Let children make rain art with paper plates and food coloring. Put drops of food coloring on a paper plate, then hold plates out in the rain and watch the patterns that are made. You could even cut out fish shapes to paint.

Scavenger Hunt - Divide children into teams and hand each team a stack of magazines, scissors, and a list. Items to search for could be things such as a picture of a car, a movie star, a sofa, a sports figure, a sweet dessert, a bike, a baby, etc.

Dress Up Relay - Give each team a set of oversized clothing (the funnier, the better --such as adult boxers, T-shirts, funny hats, rubber gloves, snow boots). Set the items on chairs at the end of the room opposite each line of players. Each team's players take turns running to the chairs, putting on the clothing, taking it back off and running back to tag the next player in line.

Balloon Races - have players run to the other end of the room while holding a balloon between their knees.

Taste Test - set out cups of different drinks such as apple juice, orange juice, milk, different sodas, etc or use different flavored jelly beans or other candies. Blindfold children and have them taste each one. The child with the most correct wins.

Musical Chairs - You can play using standard rules or adapt it by having children crawl through a large box, call it the "Dream House." When the music stops, the child who is caught in the house, is out. For younger children, you can give the child who is caught a sticker or other small prize. The last child caught would get a larger prize.

No Mess Paint



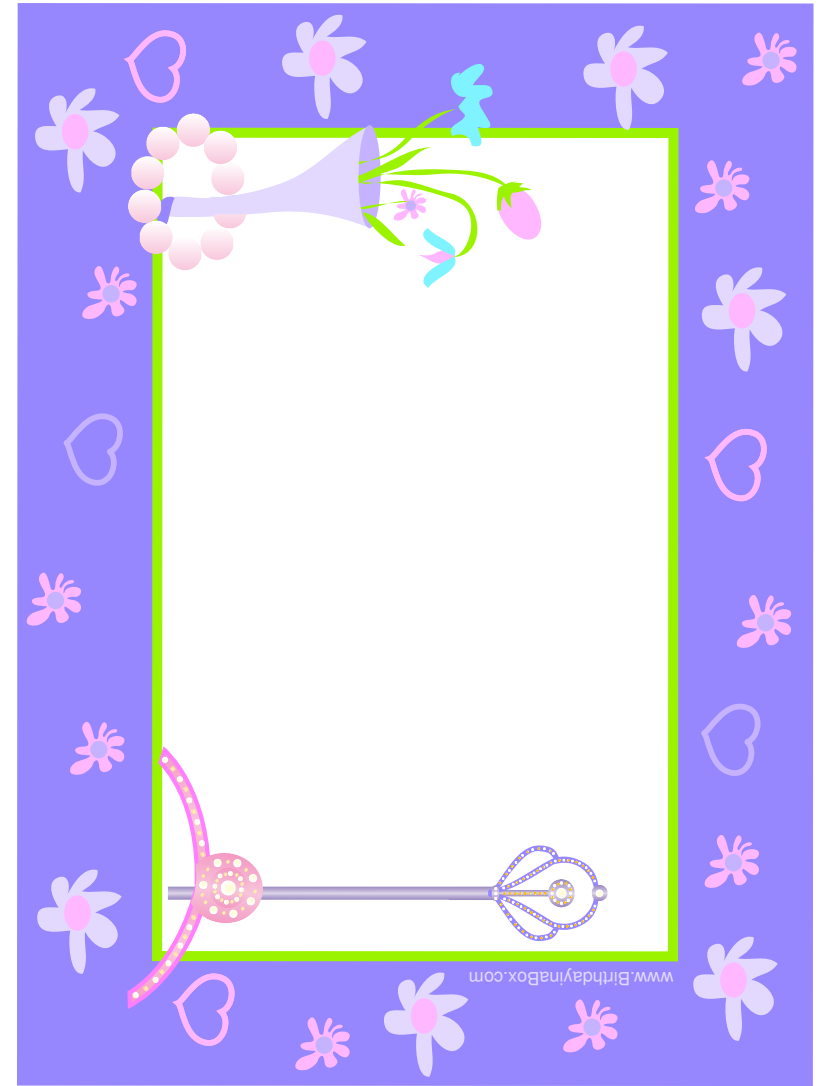
Squirt at least 1 1/2 tablespoons each of red, blue and yellow fingerpaint in a ziplock bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag.

Ensure it stays closed by sealing opening with tape. Give each child a bag of sealed paint. Children mix the colors through the plastic bags mixing the colors and making designs with their fingers.

Guests' Names	Attending Y/N	Thank you for ...
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____
16. _____	_____	_____
17. _____	_____	_____
18. _____	_____	_____



rsvp and thank-you notes



Cut out this frame, including the inner white part, and tape your favorite party picture to the back...a keepsake photo frame!



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