

PARTY PLANNING LIST

	COMPLETED	PURCHASED	COST
Who is invited? Do a List of invitees and send out invites. It doesn't need to be a paper invite if it's easier to Facebook/text/phone the person depending on your relationship with them			
If it's paper, see if your child wants to be involved in making them			
A week before party – who still hasn't got back to you? Contact again to get final numbers			
Any special dietary requirements?			
THEME			
Decide on a party theme. It's often self-explanatory (Christmas/Summer), but if it's a birthday the child may have a particular interest they want to run through the day			
THE CAKE			
If you're doing the party on a budget, consider making your own cake. Pinterest is full of ideas. You could also buy a plain cake and decorate yourself			
If you're splashing out on a cake, contact bakers as soon as you decide on holding a party, as the good ones are booked out in advance. Local recommendations work well. Facebook is a good source.			
DECORATIONS			
Budget friendly parties needn't be plain affairs, you can have a 'wow' party with some imagination and time. Here are a few basics and the things I use for our parties:			
Balloons – bumper packs from the pound/dollar store			
Coloured paper – to make paper chains (£/\$ store)			
Pack of 2 paper table covers. Buy a couple of packs in bright colours. You can use these to make door/wall/fireplace decorations and cover the party table			
Some coloured card – to make bunting			
Coloured tissue wrapping paper – to make large ball decorations and also wrap parcels for party games			
1 ball of wool. A bright wool looks good on the wall to hang decorations, is cheap and lasts for ages			
Paper plates – for decorations and to eat on. Paper plates make good crowns and facemasks too!			

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Party Poppers – Good 'loser' gifts if age appropriate			
If you've no crafts supplies, then some colouring pens, paint, glue and sticky tape for the decorations			
FOOD/DRINK			
Napkins, cups, paper plates. Do you need plastic cutlery?			
Often the bulk of the money goes on food. No matter how often I have a party, I still buy too much. Here's a good list of food for a party of 10ish. I had too much food!			
Savoury – 2 pizzas with homemade topping; 12 hot dogs with ketchup on the side; 7 rounds of sandwiches (various fillings); plain pasta + homemade tomato sauce on side and cheese; vegetable sticks (carrot/celery) and hummus			
1 loaf – Remember that children often don't eat the crusts			
Fillings for the sandwiches/rolls – ham, chicken, cheese and egg are good choices			
2 tins of hot dogs (approx. 16) – these go down a storm + Ketchup			
Hot dog rolls – 2 packs. Some children will just eat the hot dogs without the rolls			
3 carrots – cut into small carrot sticks			
1 cucumber cut into circles			
Hummus – a few of those tomato sauce holders like the ones you get in MacDonald's are handy for dips. Try Amazon			
2 celery stalks – for sticks			
Cooked plain pasta - you'd be amazed at the children who will just eat this on its own!			
1 carton of tomato/onion/garlic sauce to make sauce. I add a teaspoon of sugar, a little salt and tomato ketchup and simmer, then blend (fussy eaters don't want to see chunks)			
Pack of 2 pizza bases			
Toppings for pizza – I only had cheese and tomato, but you could turn the pizza making into an activity for the children if you've oven room			
Small block of cheese – grated (for sandwiches, pizza and pasta)			
That's all I had but you could add in some sausage rolls or a variety pack from the freezer section of the supermarket			

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Sweet – Marshmallow Top hats; Rice Crispie Cake; Chocolate Cake; Ice Cream Sundaes			
2 packets of marshmallows			
6 large bars of basic Milk Chocolate. I buy Sainsburys Basics			
1 packet of Smarties (M&Ms)			
1 packet of Rice Crispies – I buy supermarket generic brand			
1 tin of Golden Syrup, alternatively Maple Syrup			
1 pack of unsalted butter			
1 egg			
1 cheap cake mix – I buy Sainsburys Basics at approx. 35p			
2 tablespoons of chocolate powder			
A variety pack of Ice-cream – the stuff that has Strawberry/Vanilla and Chocolate. Children are fussy and with this, there's always an ice-cream that can please them			
A variety pack of Ice-cream sprinkles			
Mini Marshmallows			
Make some chocolate sauce for the Ice-cream with the chocolate you have			
Squeezey jam bottle			
I put fruit out for the Ice Cream Sundaes but it was untouched			
ENTERTAINMENT			
Music is a must at parties. For my sons' birthday, I purchased 30 songs individually that would be perfect for kids parties. I spent a fortune! Here are some other less costly ideas for music:			
Do you have Amazon Prime? Their music on the Fire Stick is fab. For our party we used the 'Kids Party' playlist & 'Kidz Bop Favourites'. Those lasted for hours, I spent no money and the dance floor was never empty!			
Youtube – Youtube has kids party playlists and is good if you can put it on a TV screen or attach your device to speakers. Make sure you pick the 'clean' playlist and monitor Youtube in case it rolls on to inappropriate stuff.			
Buy an Album – Amazon has 'Ultimate Dance Party 2016' MP3 on sale for £7.99 at time of writing. All should be clean versions of songs			
Digital Radio – Some stations play kids party tunes. One is 'Fun Kids Radio' and can be found online and on DAB			
Party Lights – ok, so these are a luxury but if you want to add some extra excitement, these <u>Rotating</u> party lights at			

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<p>£9.99 won't break the bank. I've had these and more expensive ones and I preferred this little set.</p>			
<p>Games – It's a kids party, so party games are required! Between 3 and 6 games would be ideal for a party. We played these:</p> <p>Pass the parcel – main present at the bottom, with sweeties under each wrapper Musical Statues Pin the Nose on Olaf (same as Pin the Tail on the Donkey) Group game – pass the balloon down the line (everyone gets a medal for participating) Dice building game Wooden building game</p> <p>At our parties, nobody loses! Everyone get either a party popper to pop (age dependent) or a sweet when out of the game. The winner gets this plus a medal!</p> <p>Medals can be purchased at 4 for £1 in Poundland, or from Amazon A gift for Musical Statues can be purchased from Poundland</p>			
<p>Gift Bags/Leaving Gift</p> <p>There is some debate on whether to have gift bags. It's a personal choice, I always give the children something. Here are some ideas:</p> <p>Buy a few multi-packs of gift bag fillers from Poundland. I think 4 different items, cake and a sweet is about right. I gave those out at last weeks' party. The thing is, those packs usually come in 4's or 6's and can work out pricey in the end. Remember to buy the bags if you're doing this.</p> <p>Another idea is to buy a bumper pack of sweets and 1 Poundland gift for each child. Give each gift a number and get the children to pick a number out of a hat when leaving. They get the excitement of finding out what they've won and also get a sweet and party cake.</p>			