

PARTIES/CELEBRATIONS

THEMED SLUMBER (AND BIRTHDAY) CHILD'S PARTY CHECKLIST

- Choose a theme for the party (one of your child's interests or hobbies).
- Choose a date for the party (a date where the whole family can sleep a little longer the next morning).
- On the day of the party give siblings something to do elsewhere or make arrangements for them to stay with friends or family.

Invitation:

- Design an invitation from the theme (we purchased inexpensive flip flops in different colors. The invitation (shaped like a surf board) was tied to the flip flops. The invitation announced that the invitees were to wear the flip flops to the party.
- Include the date, place, time, what to bring for sleep over, what time to be picked up in the morning, your names (parents and child), RSVP request and phone number for guests or guest's parents to call. This also gives the parents your phone number if they need it prior to or on the date of the party.
- Mail or hand deliver invitations (in this case they were hand delivered).
- Make sure you know how to contact each of the participants' parents in case of an emergency.
- Make sure you know if any of the guests have allergies to food or special needs.

Decorations & supplies:

- Napkins
- Trash bags
- Disposable but sturdy plates, utensils and glasses
- Ice
- Digital camera
- Project supplies

House rules:

- Present house rules to party guests (include rules on phone calls, leaving the house, etc.). We did this with the theme of the party in mind using a poster with surf terminology. Once everyone knew the terms, the rules were presented — Prevent a party 'wipe-out,' no 'body surfing' outside the house and no phone calls to other 'grommets.' The guests then were asked to interpret the surf terminology in the house rules.

Sleeping room:

- Make flashlights available in the sleeping room.
- Add a night light in the hallway and bathroom.
- Set up bedding as soon as all the party attendees arrive.

Food & Drink (evening):

- Serve food in individual servings. (We used beach themed large cookie cutters to cut sandwiches, pizza and individual birthday cakes.)
- Serve drinks in theme format. Fruit juices with sparkling soda in tall glasses decorated with fruit to look like tropical drinks.
- Set up snacks including healthy choices.

Activities:

- Plan activities, group projects, movies, etc. that go along with the theme and age of guests. Here are some examples for our surfing theme.
- Group project: We purchased inexpensive plastic air mattresses in all colors. The guests decorated each with colored masking tape. These were then taken to the 'sleeping' room and placed on the floor with each girls bag, sleeping bag, blankets and pillows placed on top.
- Group project: Each guest designed and decorated their own surfboard - precut out of backer board - using stencils, stickers, and other themed items. A photo was taken of everyone standing with the decorated surf boards. The best photo was printed for each guest and put in the decorated frames as a memento.
- Group project: Each guest decorated an inexpensive frame with sea shells, sea glass and other beach themed accessories.
- Movie and activity: Watched a beach themed movie that we had pre-selected and served food and drinks. Before the movie everyone drew a name of a character in the movie. They then had to act out one of the scenes after the movie.

Food & Drink (morning):

- Set out food (fruit, muffins, etc.) and drinks (orange juice, apple juice) that guests and members of the family can help themselves to as they get up.
- Set out disposable but sturdy plates, utensils, glasses and napkins.
- Preset a table or area where the guests can sit and eat breakfast.