

A Practical Guide



Birthday
Themes & Games





It's Party Time!

As we celebrate our 1st Birthday, check out this cool guide to organising the ultimate kids party - its bursting to the brim with fun games and exciting themes for planning the best party for your little monster as you celebrate their birthday, whatever their age!

Keep reading to learn how to play:

The Chocolate Game

Pass the Parcel

Musical Statues

Twenty Questions

Plus we've thought of some great themes to get the party started for both girls and boys!

The Chocolate Game

Played indoors, with the children sat in a circle

You will need:

- a wrapped bar of chocolate
- a plate, knife and fork
- dressing up items i.e. hat, scarf and gloves
- two dice

- 1) With the players sat in a circle, place the wrapped bar of chocolate on the plate in the middle, with the knife and fork. Throw the dressing up clothes into the circle and give the dice to one child.
- 2) Players take turns rolling the dice and passing them to their left after each go.
- 3) When a double is rolled, the child leaps to the centre of the circle, puts on all the clothes and starts to unwrap and eat the bar of chocolate, but only using the knife and fork.
- 4) The child continues to eat, one piece at a time, until another child rolls a double, when they must take off all the clothes and the new player takes over eating the chocolate.
- 5) Continue until all the chocolate has been eaten!

(If your party has a theme, make the dressing up clothes relevant e.g. a pirate theme would require a pirate hat, eye patch and boots. Woolly gloves are a great item to have as they make the knife and fork slippery and hard to control! You might want to have extra chocolate and a change of cutlery for hygiene reasons. You could even try eating peanuts with chopsticks to avoid young children feeling sick or being unsafe with a knife.)



Pass the Parcel

*Played indoors or outside, with children sat in a circle.
You will need music and adult assistance, plus small prizes and newspaper.*

- 1) Before the party, prepare a package starting with one main prize wrapped up, with layers wrapped around this in newspaper. Each layer could have a mini prize or a forfeit, joke, etc.
- 2) The game is played in a circle on the floor, with the parcel being passed around whilst the music is on.
- 3) At intervals, the adult stops the music and the child with the parcel unwraps one layer of paper to reveal the prize or forfeit.
- 4) Continue until there are no layers left and the final prize is won.

(Ideally there would be enough mini prizes to reward each child for playing, or two separate parcels to play twice. To save time use two parcels at once going in opposite directions round the circle.)

Musical Statues

*Played indoors or outside.
You will need an open space.*

- 1) In a large space gather the children and have music playing for them to dance to.
- 2) At intervals, the adult stops the music and the children freeze into a statue position.
- 3) The last child to remain perfectly still is 'out' for this round.
- 4) Continue playing until there is one child left, who receives a prize for being the most realistic statue!

(The game can be suited to the theme of the party by making the children strike a pose in keeping with the theme e.g. a jungle party could result in them becoming animals when they freeze. To avoid upset, all the children who are 'out' could receive a small prize, with the eventual winner having a slightly bigger prize. Keep the children who are out entertained by letting them judge the best statue as well.)

Twenty Questions

Played indoors.

- 1) Choose one player to start as 'It' and take them out of the room for a minute while the other players choose an object in the room.
- 2) When 'It' returns, he can ask 20 questions to discover the identity of the object, but the other players can only answer yes or no.
- 3) If 'It' is successful in guessing the object within 20 questions, someone else becomes 'It', otherwise he/she is 'It' again.

(With older children, the object doesn't need to be within the room as they can make up something more adventurous. If the party has a theme they could choose something related to this.)

Let's Get Planning!

When you're preparing for a house full of kids, we recommend you start planning early! It's not so hard once you've picked a theme, then just use our handy check list below to make sure you're ready for the fun...and the mayhem!

Monster Mash Party Theme

Naturally we think the best party to host is a Monster Mash, so here's how to plan yours:

- **M is for Money:** parties don't have to cost the earth if you plan ahead and get creative with your little monsters. Reduce your budget for prizes by making special badges for the winners, or give thank you certificates when guests leave instead of party bags. You could even get the kids to make their own certificate of attendance during the party to keep them entertained and give a regal feel to the event!
- **O is for Organisation:** plan in advance who is to be invited, what games are to be played and what food is to be served. The party doesn't have to be the same weekend as your monster's birthday, choose a date which is suitable for all the kids invited, when a few parents could attend to help out as well. There's no need to feel stressed, it should be a fun day for adults as well as the children, just be fully prepared for bad weather, children being ill etc.
- **N is for Nap Time:** especially with young children, a nap is always a good idea before the big event to let them calm down and build energy before the party. It also gives you extra time to get yourself ready and decorate the house as a surprise for your little monster and friends!
- **S is for Surroundings:** although your little monster will be aware of where the valuable and fragile items are in your house, their friends won't be so sure. To be on the safe side, prepare to have kids running around and potentially bumping into the things by putting away important possessions which could be broken easily. It will not only help you relax during the party but will avoid any upset or arguments if things were to get broken.
- **T is for Trimmings:** not on the turkey but on your house! No party is complete without paper plates, bunting and party hats, so stock up early and get decorating! Colourful streamers are easy to make and can keep your little monster busy as you prepare the food, or download our themed bunting for them to colour, for a fantastic Monster Mash!
- **E is for Entertainment:** with you and the house fully prepared for the day's adventures, all that remains is the event itself. You could splash out with hired entertainment like clowns and bouncy castles, but we think you can have just as much fun with traditional party games, like those we've included in this guide. Just plan in advance what you want to play and prepare as advised!
- **R is for Refreshments:** when the games are over your little monsters will need to reboot for extra energy. Stick to simple food and drink, with less sugar if possible as the kids will already be excited and full of energy! Make sandwiches and snacks in advance where possible, or buy ready made treats to save time. Check out our Monster Cupcake recipe if you feel adventurous!

