

# Pointers For Parents

## How To Plan A Birthday Party For Your Kids

(NAPSA)—With some planning, putting together a great birthday party for your child can be easy. How? Julie Edelman, family interactivity specialist, says: take plenty of time for planning and involve your child in the process—from selecting the theme and guest list to choosing (or creating) the invitations, decorations, activities, foods and favors.

Keep it simple and get the toys and goodies well in advance. Favors needn't be expensive, but should be fun, cool and provide immediate gratification. Perennial favorites include trading cards and the latest toy trends.

For example, pogo sticks have sprung back as this year's hot new plaything. You probably don't want to give each guest a pogo stick, but you can give them "M&M's" MINIS Milk Chocolate Candy Toy & Pogo Dispenser—a colorful, collectible candy dispenser and moveable toy pogo all in one. Party-goers can collect and trade all six characters from the Sports series—Hockey, Basketball, Skateboard, Soccer, Snowboard and Mountain Biking. The Toy & Pogo Dispensers are sold individually or in multi-packs of 4 with the candy included. Mixed with trading cards, stickers and a picture from the party, it could be a bag of favors to savor.

This checklist can help get your party started:

### **5-6 Weeks Before The Party**

- Pick the date, time and theme
- Create a guest list
- Select or create invitations

### **3-4 Weeks Before The Party**

- Send out invitations



**Experts advise that cool toys with a sports theme and small candies provide popular and inexpensive party favors.**

Decide on activities, games and refreshments

Buy or make decorations, party favors and prizes

### **1-2 Weeks Before The Party**

Check and confirm RSVPs

Buy/store party food and supplies for activities/games

### **1-3 Days Before The Party**

Prepare foods

Decorate room

Set up activities

Set table

Assemble party favor bags

Purchase film for camera and check batteries

Get candles and matches

Childproof the party area

### **Party Day**

Bake or get cake and other food

Take plenty of photos

Relax and enjoy the party!

For decorating ideas and additional recipes, log onto <http://www.marsbrightideas.com>.