

Happy Birthday on the Cheap— Budget Party Ideas

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Every year it seems that the birthday parties get bigger, more complicated and definitely more expensive. You can have a great party, with fabulous decorations, for just a few dollars.

The Invitations

If you're going to have a party, you know you'll need to invite your guests. They'll need to know the date, time and occasion. There are great ways to do this for very little cost. The cheapest way is generally to make your own invitations. To do this, you can use wallpaper scraps, index cards, poster board or other sturdy material. You can be extra frugal and use the fronts of old birthday cards as invitations.

Simply print the details on the back of the picture and voila! Individual and unique invitations. Another option is to use a computer program to make them, or to print them off the Internet. You can be really frugal and send an e-card as an invitation.



Do an Internet Search

There are so many things that you can do for a birthday party that it depends partly on what your child's interests are. You can make it a theme such as Wiggles, a colour, favourite toy or animal. One place on the Internet to find help is Children's Parties. It is an Australian based site full of ideas and tips for kids' parties. - **Contributed by Gaelene, Watsonia**

Take the Party Outside

Why not try an outing instead. There is an excellent small zoo called Featherdale Park. It has small animals, which the children can pet. It is on Kildare Road, Blacktown. Just a short distance away is Nurragingy Reserve, which is a good place for a picnic. - **Contributed by Lesley, Rooty Hill**

Budget Birthday Party

When we have a birthday on the cheap, we have a sausage sizzle. Home made birthday cake, home made caramel popcorn, cordial and other home baked treats. This can be at home or the park. Have a fun birthday. - **Contributed by Heather, Caloundra**

The Party Ware

Have a party supply box. In this box I have enough cups, plates, bowls and cutlery and for 25 people. They are all different colours (blue, pink, green and yellow). And they were all really cheap 6 for \$2 from Crazy Clints. I have picked up large plastic serving platters and bowls for \$2 a piece from different dollar type stores and they are in the party box as well. As they are made of fairly sturdy plastic, they will last for years. I also put balloons, streamers, party favours, lolly bags etc into the box throughout the year. As I find them on sale, I buy them. This helps to keep the costs of parties down, and takes a lot of the stress out of planning them too.

Party Kids

Take a look at a great party website www.partykids.com.au You'll find some sensational party ideas and their party packs are great value and the kids love them. - **Contributed by Kerrie, Woonona**

NOTE: Party Kids is one of my favourite sites, too. I can highly recommend the Deluxe Themed Party Box, and there are lots of free tip sheets, planning sheets and party games on the site too.



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