

Arty Party checklist



The best part of an arts-and-crafts party: The guests have fun decorating and making their own party favors! Get inventive with projects and use up all those craft kits; just spread out plastic tablecloths and let creativity take its course.

Favors

Use white paper bags as a blank canvas, and let each kid decorate theirs as a goodie bag. After they're done and the kids are busy elsewhere, stuff the containers with art supplies, tiny notebooks, small watercolor sets, colored pencils and paintbrushes.

- Crayola colored pencils
- Paintbrushes and paint
- Small notebooks / home office dept.
- Party doh / cards & party dept.
- White or brown paper bags / cards & party dept.
- Watercolor sets / cards & party dept.

Must-have party supplies

- Birthday cake / bakery dept.
- Candles / stationery dept.
- Paper plates and napkins / stationery dept.
- Tablecloth and plastic cutlery / stationery dept.
- Garbage bags / cleaning supplies dept.
- Cleaning supplies / cleaning supplies dept.

Decorations

Before the party, make several life-sized tracings around the body of the birthday kid on poster-board and cut them out. When guests arrive, let each child dip their hand in paint and add their own unique touch to a silhouette, then hang up the masterpieces.

- Poster board / art supplies dept.
- Clorox wipes / cleaning supplies dept.
- Crayola Washable Paint / art supplies dept.
- Permanent markers / home office dept.
- Scissors / home office dept.
- Wall-safe tape / home office dept.

Activities: the art of fashion

Let each girl express her own individual style. First, inspire the party with a fashion design video game that lets guests create designs and see them modeled onscreen. Then, set them loose with a tie-dye kit or permanent markers to customize keepsake T-shirts.

Prep time: None

Activity time: 90 min.

The supplies you need:

- TV plug-in game / toy dept.
- Funky Groovy Tie-Dye Kit
- Prewashed white T-shirts / kids' clothing dept.
- Shower curtain or tarp / bath dept.
- Rubber gloves / cleaning supplies dept.

More activities

Piece of cup-cake

Instead of creating one large birthday cake, let the young artists decorate their own cupcakes. Place a cupcake at each place at the table, then provide a crazy assortment of frostings, berries and candies in individual bowls.

Prep time: 20 min.

Activity time: 30 min.

The supplies you need:

- Chocolate, pink and white frosting / grocery dept.
- Fresh or frozen berries / grocery dept.
- Candy sprinkles / grocery dept.
- Colorful candy / grocery dept.
- Chocolate and butterscotch chips / grocery dept.

Movers and shakers

Art gets musical when you make your own instruments. Put a big bowl of beans or beads in the middle of the table. Place a handful of beans in a disposable glass and tape on a second glass rim-to-rim to create a shaker. Decorate, then let the concert begin!

Prep time: 15 min.

Activity time: 45 min.

The supplies you need:

- Stickers / cards & party dept.
- Poster paints / art supplies dept.
- Paper or plastic glasses / cards & party dept.
- Beads / art supplies dept.
- Uncooked beans / grocery dept.
- Duct tape / hardware dept.

Color me surprised

An icebreaker game helps school and neighborhood friends get to know each other. Put a letter or color sticker on the forehead or back of each arrival without showing them what the sticker is. By asking each other questions, they'll figure out their stickers—and make new friends.

Prep time: None

Activity time: 10 min.

The supplies you need:

- Scrapbooking alphabet stickers or color-shape stickers / art supplies dept.

Showcase of friends

Take pages from a photo album, or pick up a scrapbooking kit. Give each guest a page and plenty of art supplies to create a memento about their friendship with the birthday girl or boy. The assembled book will be treasured for years to come.

Prep time: 15 min.

Activity time: 45 min.

The supplies you need:

- Scrapbooking kits / art supplies dept.
- Craft supplies (glue, scissors, tape, etc.) / art supplies dept.
- Foam and regular stickers / art supplies dept.
- Ribbon / stationery dept.
- Polaroid camera and film / electronics dept.
- Markers / art supplies dept.

Keeping your cool

Kick off the party by handing out colorful foam can coolers and having children decorate them with stickers and paint pens. Then, use the same coolers in event after event, from ping-pong ball tosses to piñata candy-catching to holding refreshments on the way home.

Prep time: None

Activity time: 20 min. for decorating

The supplies you need:

- Foam can coolers / camping dept.
- Foam shapes and alphabet stickers / art supplies dept.
- Adhesive wiggle eyes and gemstones / art supplies dept.
- Pinata / cards & party dept.

For even more fun, include:

- Board games/ toy dept.
- Boy/girl/preschool activities kit/ toy dept.