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Baby Shower Hosting 101

By Dana Williams

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Are you ready to host the best baby shower ever but don't know where to start? Baby showers are fun, but planning one can be tedious. In this article we'll cover the basics to get you started.

So who should host the baby shower? Traditionally, only non-relatives are to host a baby shower — co-workers, church groups, etc.; however, it has become more common and acceptable for mothers and sisters to host showers too. The important thing is that someone take the initiative to host the shower — what a wonderful display of caring for a growing family and a special way to help welcome a new life into the world. It is also perfectly acceptable for more than one person to host a baby shower. It can be fun for a group of friends to share the responsibilities and excitement of planning and hosting this special event.

When it comes to inviting guests, you likely have some idea of those you want to invite to the shower, but it is always a safe bet to run the guest list by the mom-to-be to ensure you haven't left anyone out.

You can invite guests via a phone call or an e-mail (be sure they check their mail regularly!), but the written invitation is still the most preferable way to kick off a shower. You can even find baby shower ecard invitations online. Just do a simple search online and I'm sure you'll find one. No matter what type of invitation you use, be sure to include pertinent information — whether it regards a theme, a note of where the mom-to-be has registered, a map or written directions to the shower, or any special item you want the guests to bring for the mom.

Showers are normally given a month or two before the mom's due date. It's a good idea to give the mom enough time following the shower to shop for items she didn't receive, yet wants to have before the baby arrives. And of course you don't want to hold the shower too close to baby's due date in case he or she makes an early arrival!

Baby showers are normally held in the home of the hostess. If desired though, you can certainly host a shower at a church fellowship area, a favorite restaurant, or even at a banquet hall — it really all depends on what atmosphere you are looking for and how much money you want to spend. If the

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shower will be held in a restaurant, make reservations at least two weeks prior to the date. At one-week prior, one of the organizers should speak with the manager to confirm the details.

The shower should last around one and a half to two hours. Things may wind down early or they may likely continue on as guests chat together.

There are many variations on showers, but we have devised a general "schedule" for baby showers. You can add/remove any part and re-order it to your liking.

Greet Guests – serve light appetizers

After all or almost all guests have arrived, go around the room and have each guest introduce

themselves and identify how they know the mother-to-be.

Play 2–4 Shower Games. It is good to play games at the beginning as ice-breakers. Remember some guests may not know *anyone* but the mother-to-be.

Let everyone go get whatever food may be available and then once everyone has been served, the mother-to-be can begin to open her gifts. Be sure to have someone write down each gift and who it is from. It will make sending thank-you notes a lot easier.

People chat and usually leave a few at a time. Make sure the mother-to-be gets to say goodbye to everyone and the hostess thanks the person for attending. If the hostess has shower favors, they should give this to the guest now.

For more information on hosting baby showers, visit <http://www.danagiftbasketexpress.com> or send a blank email to babydiapercakes@sendfree.com for a Free Guide to Hosting the Perfect Baby Shower.

Dana Williams is the owner of Dana's Gift Basket Express, an online gift shop specializing in unique baby shower gifts for baby and mother. Need more baby shower hosting tips and ideas? Learn how to make your own baby shower favors, go to <http://www.danagiftbasketexpress.com> .

Fun And Funny Baby Shower Invitations

By Stephen Kreutzer

In this day of high technology, you may not even need paper baby shower invitations. In fact, you may just prefer to call your guests and invite them over for cake and presents and call it a baby shower. But if you have the time to invest in choosing baby shower invitations, whether you make them yourself or buy them, or send them online or via snail mail, these little introductions to your baby shower can set the mood and get the party started long before the first guest arrives.

Baby Shower Invitation Inserts

Whether it's a map to the site of the baby shower, a picture of the new little one if he or she has already arrived, or a sticker or magnet with a 'Save the Date' message stamped on it, inserts are a fun way to make the recipient feel like they are getting their own baby shower gift.

Baby Shower Z Fold Invitation

This baby shower invitation unfolds like an accordion and allows the recipient 3 to 6 panels in which information may be included. These are helpful if you don't want to deal with inserts and want to make sure that all the salient information stays together.

Baby Shower Invitation RSVPs

A fun RSVP card can get the baby shower fun started when your guest lets you know that he or she will be able to share the day with you. Leave space for a 'helpful hint for the new mom' or ask them to let you know what food or drink they would like to bring if you're hosting a potluck. Don't forget to provide stamped postcards or envelopes!

Helpful Baby Shower Invitation Hints

- * Send your baby shower invitations up to a month before the actual baby shower.
- * Be sure that your theme is obvious by the invitation you choose.
- * If you opt to design your own, keep it simple! You don't want to get too bogged down before the baby shower begins!
- * Don't forget to include map to the baby shower site as well as a cell phone number where guests may get last minute assistance with directions.
- * If you're technology friendly, use your email address or one of the many invitation sites to keep track of your RSVPs.

Stephen Kreutzer is a freelance publisher based in Cupertino, California. He publishes articles and reports in various ezines and provides baby shower tips on

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