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Easy Kids Party Decorating

By Patricia B. Jensen

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Decorating for a kids party can be cheap and easy, yet impressive, if you have the basics in place and use a little imagination and advance planning. Follow these simple guidelines for kids party decorations:

GREETING SIGN: A greeting sign in your front yard or on your door is a nice way to welcome party guests. Match it to the party theme and colors. For a construction party write "Caution: Work Zone" in black on a yellow background. For a luau party, draw orange, yellow and pink leis around the word "Aloha". A western party sign could say "Welcome to the O.K. Corral". With just a little imagination, a homemade sign can be better than a store-bought one and you'll be complimented on your ingenuity to boot!

BALLOONS: Balloons are a must for every kids party. They are cheap, colorful, and every kid loves them! Choose the balloon color to complement your party theme. For example, two shades of green for a jungle party, orange and black for a Halloween party, yellow and orange for a construction party, and so on.

Assorted helium-filled balloons can be bunched and anchored in the middle of the party table as a centerpiece, or attached from the light fixture in the center of the room. I always get a special birthday mylar which relates to the party theme and tie it to the birthday child's chair.

A balloon arch is an impressive way to direct guests to the party area. Simply attach helium-filled balloons to a ribbon about every 12 inches and secure it to the ground on either side of your doorway. Remember to attach a few balloons to your mailbox to show guests where the party is. Be sure you have enough balloons to give one to each party guest as they leave.

CREPE PAPER: Another cheap and easy party decoration is crepe paper. Tie four to six pieces from the center light fixture in the room extending to the corners and walls. Twist as you go and secure with

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masking tape or rubber cement, both of which are easily removed after the party is over. For an extra fancy effect, twist two different colors of crepe together. Attach a couple of balloons over the crepe paper ends to cover any tape or glue.

Hang crepe paper strips in doorways similar to the 60's beaded look. Alternate colors for more visual interest. Balloons and crepe paper alone are enough to give your party area a fun and festive atmosphere.

TABLE DECORATIONS: Personalize your party table with some homemade embellishments. Start with a tablecloth designed by the party child. Cut a length of butcher paper and let him or her decorate it with colorful markers, crayons, pictures cut from magazines, construction paper shapes let the imagination run wild! Then, sandwich your child's creation between a colored plastic tablecloth and a clear one, so it can be appreciated by all, yet protected from spills.

Use one or more of your child's toys relating to the party theme as a centerpiece. For example, a large teddy bear for a teddy bear picnic party, a grouping of Barbies for a dolly party, a cowboy hat for a western party – you get the idea. You can even anchor a balloon bouquet to your unique centerpiece.

Curl several lengths of curling ribbon and lay on the table surrounding your centerpiece. Add a few sprinkles of party confetti it even comes in different themes to complete the effect.

COSTUMES: You may not think of costumes as decorations, but they are! They just happen to be adorning people, not walls or tables! It's fun for the party hosts and party child to dress with the party theme, even if it's just a hat, funny glasses, or themed T-Shirt. This conveys a playful mood to get your party going in a festive spirit.

If you plan your theme several months ahead, you can anticipate your needs and take advantage of sales and discounts to keep the cost of decorations down. Keep a storage container of party decorations you see on close-out throughout the year. If you throw an annual party on Halloween, Valentine's Day or other holiday, shop the day after the holiday for deeply discounted items and save them in your party container for the following year's party.

Follow these simple kids party decorating tips, and you'll reap the benefits with rave reviews from party guests and parents alike!

Patricia B. Jensen is a mother of three and kids party enthusiast. She is the webmaster and owner of

– your resource for kids party ideas and complete party plans for many

popular themes, including invitations, cakes, decorations, games, costumes, favors, and food.

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where great kids parties are "a piece of cake"!

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Children's Bedroom Decorating Ideas Begin With The Right Furniture

By Grace P. Fairchild

When you are trying to come up with children's bedroom decorating ideas, it is important that you select the proper furniture to go with the kids bedroom decorating of your choice. It may not have even crossed your mind that there is actual furniture out there created specifically for decorating a kids bedroom, but these are essential for creating a child-sized space that is easy and safe for your kids to live and play with.

There are many different styles of furniture that you can use for decorating childrens bedroom, so the first thing that you will need to consider is the age of your child, the size of the room, the shape of the room, and whether or not the room is being shared. No matter what, this do it yourself bedroom decorating for kids allows your child the ability to:

* Rest well * Study in comfort * Play in a safe and attractive space * Store all belongings in easily accessible places

Among the best children's bedroom decorating ideas for creating space is to purchase multi-functional furniture. These kids bedroom decorating ideas allow the furniture to be used for many purposes such as storage, bins, bookcases, and stackable crates. Decorating kids bedroom this way allows you to keep things off the floor, but still remain within reach of the kids.

Other real space-saving bedroom decorating ideas for kids include using bunk or loft beds when children are sharing the room. This allows two beds to be in the room, taking only the space of one. When your children aren't sleeping, they'll really appreciate these children's bedroom decorating ideas for the extra play space they have.

You will be certain to discover that when it comes to children's bedroom decorating ideas these days, the options are practically limitless.

Grace writes for

North Carolina's largest online furniture store

offering premium furniture including a large selection of children's bedroom furniture

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