

Jackson's favorite birthday present ever was a cotton candy machine



Tips and tricks for creating the ultimate party

Memorable Birthday Bashes

Written by Kirsten Ham

Birthday parties were designed to make children feel like kings, or queens, for the day. Katy parents pull out all the stops when it comes to their celebrations. Birthday party themes can take a lot of work out of planning a birthday party. Choosing a theme makes decorating, games, and even the food much easier to pull together.

From pirates to princesses and many more in between, we consulted the experts on how to put together themes that will create a wonderland for your child.

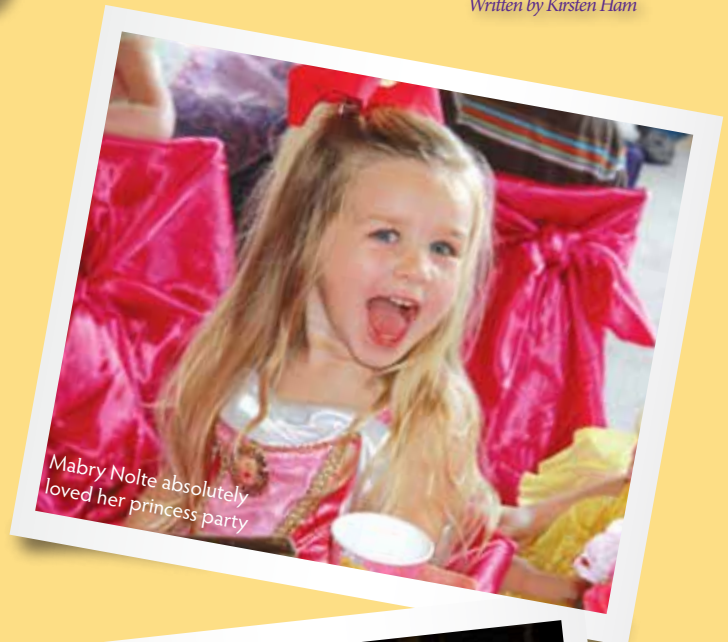
A Thrilling Theme

From Angry Birds to SpongeBob, parties often root from the popular movie of the season or the child's favorite shows and games. Katy mom Jean Quinton prefers customized parties. "The first thing I like to do is document the child's interests for that year," Quinton says. "I pick their birthday party theme based off what they really love. I also make sure to keep it age appropriate."

Entertainment is key and can easily play into your chosen theme. "You can plan a successful party by being creative and having all kinds of activities for the kids to do," mother Amy Dodd says. "Edible details are fun and letting kids design their own treats is also unique. It's important to have food and snacks that cater to not only the children but the adults as well."

"We've seen a growing rise in Texans parties," says Vicky Peek with Tilt Studio. "The red and blue is easy to do and works well with all age groups."

Making memories with your child is the most important aspect of any birthday celebration. "Tyler's favorite birthday party was Mike the Knight," says Katy mom Melissa Annis. "It was a lot of fun and he still talks about it. Next year, we're going with a swim party."



Mabry Nolte absolutely loved her princess party



Birthdays at Time Square Entertainment can include everything but the guests



Julia enjoys birthday parties because all of her friends come

Karlianna loves all pink birthdays where she gets to be a princess for the day

“My favorite birthday present ever was a puppy.”
– Karlianna Kapche, Age 6



“I loved my birthday party this year because we painted wooden animals and had a bouncy house.”
– Julia Wijsman Age 3



Sean Tyler loves balloons, cake, and brightly colored ribbons



Tyler Annis is excited that his next birthday will be a swim party theme

“I love birthday parties because they have piñatas and candy!”
– Sofia Lopez Age 4



Sofia's favorite birthday party had a Minnie Mouse theme



Ideal Location

Many locations have levels of birthday packages sure to meet a variety of ages, guests, and budgets. "The thing that sets us apart is that we have it all under one roof," shares DeDe Young with Times Square Entertainment. "All you need to bring is the cake, candles, and kids."

"We really work with our clients," says Peek. "Even though we have packages in place, we will work with their goals and create complete customization. It is their birthday, you really want to make it special."

Melissa Furman of Tiger-Rock Martial Arts agrees, "We have packages from Basic to Deluxe. It's accommodating for parties of all sizes and ages."

Extravagant cakes are another hallmark of a successful birthday bash. Slices of multi-layered cake, multiple flavors with theme-centered embellishments are often featured. A tower of cupcakes has also made its way to the main stage as a way to easily and quickly distribute sweet treats. "We've seen the most extravagant birthday cakes through here, very creative," Young says with a laugh.

"We can even have a cake made to resemble a TaeKwonDo uniform," adds Furman. "The best part is the birthday boy or girl gets to cut the cake with a real samurai sword, assisted of course."



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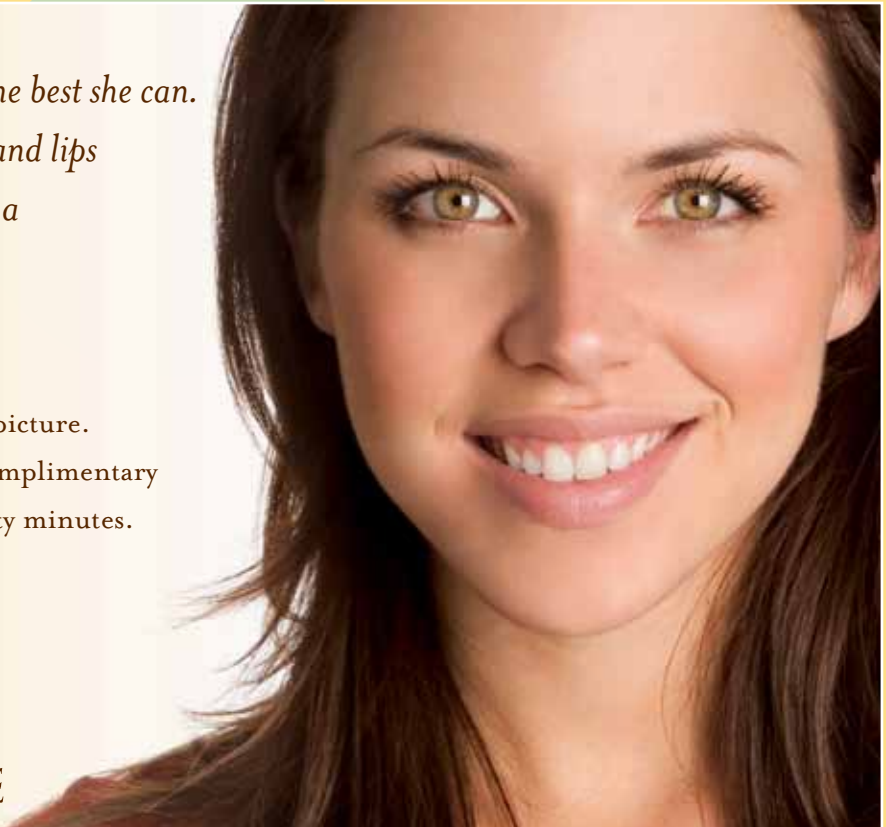
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281-769-8630

★ CampKaty Technology Camp

6193 Hwy. Blvd., #209
281-397-3770
See ad on page 62

Ceramics by Tess

402 W. Grand Pkwy. S., #115
281-392-3161

Dewberry Farm

FM 362 and Morrison Rd.
Brookshire
866-908-3276

Inflatable Zone

2482 S. Mason Rd.
281-574-3033

★ Katy Family YMCA

22807 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-392-5055
See ad on page 145

Mason Road Skate Center

535 Applewhite Dr.
281-392-9555

Monkey Joe's

511A Mason Rd.
832-321-4420

★ Painting with A Twist

2020E S. Fry Rd.
281-578-8862
See ad on page 62

★ Pigtales & Crewcuts

5131 S. Fry Rd., #500
281-492-6061
See ad on page 139

Pump It Up

923 S. Mason Rd.
281-829-5711

★ Smith Ranch

25440 Beckendorff Rd.
281-371-3318
See ad on page 121

Sugar & Spice

23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd., #100S
281-769-8236

Tank's Paintball Park, Inc.

899 Westgreen Blvd.
281-492-2301

★ Tiger-Rock Martial Arts

625 S. Mason Rd.
281-829-9300
See ad on page 64

★ The School/Project IDEA Lab

26440 FM 1093
281-886-0317
See ad on page 145

★ The Little Gym

23010A Highland Knolls Dr.
281-347-1400
See ad on page 62

The Storybook Cottage

5814 1st St.
281-574-5707

★ Times Square Entertainment

402 Grand Pkwy. S., #110
281-395-8550
See ad on page 62

★ Tilt Studio

5000 Katy Mills Circle, #100
281-644-2340
See ad on page 64

Westwood Gymnastics

23333 Taswell Dr.
281-347-2000

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Little Extras

The little details incorporated into a party can make all the difference for the child, parents, and their guests. Be sure you find a venue or theme that is accommodating as well as fun.

“Every party receives their own party hostess,” explains Young. “They do everything from selecting bowling balls, to helping children plug in their names, or serving food. It’s wonderful because the party moms can actually enjoy their child’s party instead of running around doing everything.” Several local venues furnish invitations, food, beverages, balloons, and plenty of activities for your children.

“I love birthday parties because of the yummy cake everyone eats.”

- Anson Stucky, Age 4

“We really work with our clients,” says Peek. “Even though we have packages in place, we will work with their goals and create complete customization.”

Themed parties can provide more than entertainment and sugar for your guests. “Tiger-Rock also incorporates defense education into the party. Kids have a lot of fun but they are also learning,” shares Furman. Birthday parties are hosted by high-ranking, immensely talented, black belt instructors. In addition, each guest leaves the party having earned a white belt.

Goodie bags of all types and sizes are still found at today’s Katy parties. “When parents bring in party favors they do it really well, sparing no expense,” says Peek. “One of the neatest ones I’ve seen was customized water bottles filled with treats.”

Lasting Memories

If their birthday isn’t their favorite holiday, it probably ranks in the top three. Make party planning fun by involving them in the process. Let your cutie help pick themes, colors, or even a favorite game. Enjoy the party with your child. These are memories that will remain with you both for a lifetime.

KM



KIRSTEN HAM enjoys being on the editorial team for Katy Magazine. Her favorite birthday party was a Nancy Drew theme where she had to find all the presents using clues.

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Throw a Dazzling Party

Here are some of the most popular themes for Katy kids' parties

Boy Birthday Themes

- Sports
- Super Heroes
- Science
- Monsters
- Airplanes
- Robots
- Trains
- Star Wars
- Dinosaur
- Pixar's Cars
- Phineas and Ferb
- Cowboys
- Scavenger Hunt

Girl Birthday Themes

- Vintage Tea Party
- Minnie Mouse
- Candyland
- Spa Day
- Craft Party
- Rock Star
- Barbie
- Ballerina
- Alice in Wonderland
- American Girl Doll
- Disney Princess
- Hello Kitty
- Pajama Party



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