



This Katy Cutie celebrated her 2nd
Birthday at The Little Gym

*Fun, Stress-Free Ways
to Celebrate Your Katy
Kid's Special Day*

It's Birthday Time

Written by Cathy Sze

It only comes once a year and with help from your child, you're reminded of it months in advance. From the moment your child starts reciting what's on their birthday wish list, you know the time has to come to whip out that pen and paper and start planning another birthday party. But what to do this year? You need not worry - party ideas and the help you need are available right here in Katy.

Wild and Crazy Fun

What child doesn't like to jump in a bouncy inflatable, probably even larger than the size of their bedroom? One thing's for sure, Louise Albert's ten-year-old daughter, Maddie does, which is why Albert decided to celebrate her daughter's tenth birthday at Inflatable Zone on Mason Road. "Maddie had been to other birthday parties there, including batting cages and putt putt golf, and she loved jumping on the inflatables," says Albert. "She kept saying how she wanted to go back, so we decided to have her party there."

Eliminate the Stress

Having a party at an outside vendor is really stress-free and easy on both you and your spouse, because you'll hardly need to plan a thing. "The planning was so easy because they took care of everything. All we had to do was show up with the cake," says Albert, who enjoyed sitting back and relaxing while the kids enjoyed their inflatables party. Pump it Up is another popular inflatable play

place that has numerous all-inclusive party packages and handles all the mess and details so parents don't have to.

The All-Inclusive Party

Times Square Entertainment is also a great birthday option for parents who want the all-inclusive party. School-agers through teenagers can choose which party packages suits them best. Times Square offers a terrific party combo of bowling, laser tag, and arcade games with food and cake served by friendly party hosts. Many birthday kids choose Times Square year after year.

Kristin Jawad, mother of five-year-old twins Benjamin and Danielle, who recently celebrated their fifth birthday, recommends planning in advance. "I think you should probably prepare about a month to six weeks in advance," says Jawad. At the request of her son, Jawad decided to have her kids' party at The Little Gym on Highland Knolls. "Benjamin had taken lessons there and really liked it. They both really wanted to have their party there," she says.

Gymnastics and Activities

What exactly do the kids do at the little gym? "It's basically a little gymnastics place," says Jawad. "They go into the room and the staff sets up little activities. They bring out balls, throw them around, and play under a big parachute." Besides the parachute, the kids get to jump on a big blown up air track and are even taken through a mini gymnastics class with trampolines and bars. "They do that for about an hour, and after they're taken into a little room where they have their cake," she says. The larger competitive gymnastics studios (Westwood Gymnastics and Katy Kips) also offer fun birthday party packages for kids who like to flip, jump, and swing.

No Place Like Home

Katy mother Sue Cox decided to do an at-home birthday party for her daughter Nicole's sixth birthday. "We've done a lot of birthday parties at many of the locations around Katy, and so we were thinking something different," says Cox. "Nicole is a really girly girl and she loves makeup and clothes, so I thought 'Why don't we do makeup and hair here?' We called it the *Pampered Princess Birthday Party*.

A Picture Perfect Princess Party

"We invited ten little girls and I told them all to wear a pretty outfit," says Cox. "They were all given a makeover, including hair and nails, and at the end we took a picture." How did Cox manage making over all these little girls? Cox knows she could not have done it alone and advises to get assistance. "With ten little girls I thought we needed to get some help," says Cox. "I got some neighborhood college and high school girls to help apply the makeup and do the hair and manicures. That worked out really well and the kids had a lot of fun."

A Memory Keepsake

The fun didn't stop there. Cox also had a craft for the girls to do after their makeover was completed. "I got these little clear acrylic frames to decorate, and they put stickers and glitter on them," says Cox. "While they were decorating them I went up to print the pictures so they could take home the picture in the frame. It was like their little goodie-bag."

Cox knows that kids always like to take something home, which is why she also got the girls a fun filled makeup bag. "I purchased a

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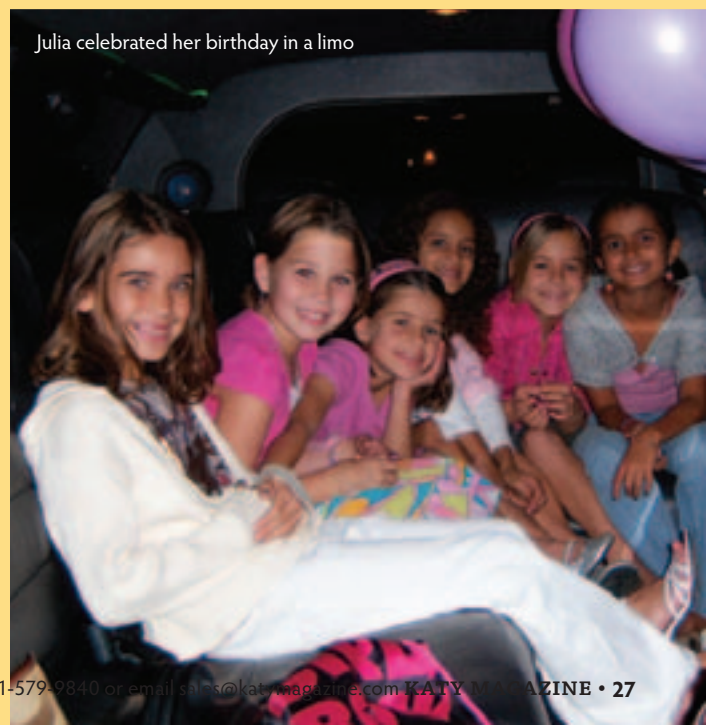
Nathan's had a military theme for his 9th birthday



Younger children will have fun at a Go Diego Go party



Thalia's 6th birthday bash



Julia celebrated her birthday in a limo

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little bag that had a mirror, a comb, and a brush, so that way when we were doing everyone's hair and makeup they could have their own brush and they didn't have to worry about sharing," says Cox. "I also got a lip gloss and nail polish for each of them."

No Regrets

"I wouldn't do anything differently," says Cox. "It turned out so well, and at school everyone was talking about how it was one of the best parties that they've been to." And what did Nicole, the six-year-old little princess think? "She absolutely loved it," says Cox of her daughter. "In fact, she has actually just started talking about next years. She has an idea to do a little restaurant, like have little tables and little menus and have mom and dad serve as waiters." Cox chuckles, "We think it's a great idea. It should be a lot of fun, and we're looking forward to it." **KM**

CATHY SZE of Katy is a freshman at the University of Texas at Austin where she plans to major in journalism. She likes visiting her Katy home on holidays and long weekends.

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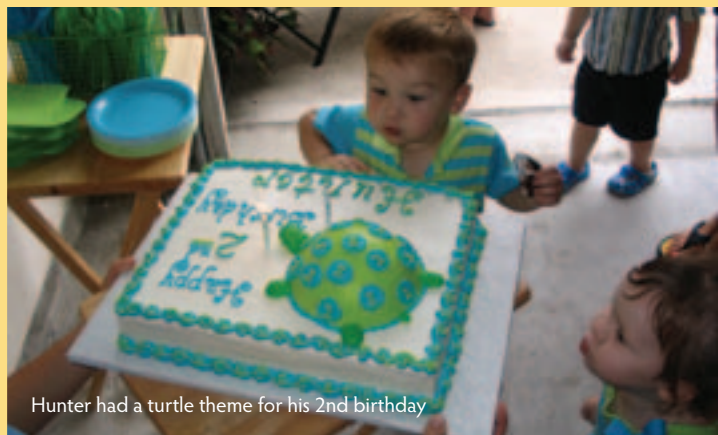




Born on the 6th anniversary of her grandma's death, Macy releases a bouquet of balloons each year as a tribute to her



A firetruck theme is a big hit for little boys






Hunter had a turtle theme for his 2nd birthday



Caroline enjoyed digging into her birthday cake

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See ad on pg. 26

The Little Gym

23010-A Highland Knolls
281-347-1400
See ad on pg. 28

Chuck E. Cheese's

2002 Gulfmont Dr.
281-644-4950

Ceramics by Tess

402 W. Grand Pkwy. S.
281-392-3161

Spalato Gelateria

22758 Westheimer Pkwy #200
832-437-1835
See ad on pg. 96

Inflatable Zone Katy

2482 S. Mason Rd.
281-574-3033

Katy Kips Gymnastics

5143 E. 5th. St.
281-391-4020

Katy Family YMCA

22807 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-392-5055
See ad on pg. 28

Mason Road Skate Center

535 Apple White Dr.
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Pump It Up

923 S. Mason Rd.
281-829-5711

Westwood Gymnastics

(North) 20212 Franz Rd.
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