

Pool parties are a great way to keep kids entertained during the summer



# It's a **Katy** Splash Bash

*How to Host a Fabulous Pool Party to Remember*

Written by Carlee Besier



When kids are in or around the pool, it's important that several responsible adults are supervising



Clay and Liam enjoying their backyard bash

As the temperature rises and kids get restless, parents will be searching for creative ideas to keep their kids entertained. There's no better way to break up the monotony of summer than with a fun pool party. So get your kids involved in the planning, round up your friends and neighbors, and follow these tips for a summer celebration that people will be talking about for the rest of the season.

### Pre-Party Preparations

Plan the party a few weeks in advance, allowing yourself time to maintain the cleanliness of your pool. Since the pool is going to be the focal point of the party, you want it to be a dazzling shade of blue under the summer sun. If you don't have your own pool, this advanced planning allows for time to book the event at your neighborhood pool.

### Send the Invites

The invitation sets the tone for the party, so you want it to be creative and eye-catching. If you choose to follow a theme throughout the party, this is the first opportunity to show what that theme will be. You can do the standard luau theme or opt for something more unusual, like a Mexican fiesta, sea creatures, pirate theme, or a Survivor party with relays and games. As you consider the number of people you want to invite, you must first determine the number of people who will fit comfortably and safely into your backyard and pool.

### Setting the Scene

If you chose the luau theme, set up tiki torches around the perimeter of the yard. As guests arrive, hand out leis and grass skirts. If you have the capability at home or at the community pool, set up a stereo and speakers and play Hawaiian music in the background. If you don't have a theme for the party, just make sure the music is appropriate for kids of all ages. Other fun summer decorations include beach balls, sunglasses, bright beach towels, and flip flop sandals. You can find plates, napkins, and cups to match most beach, summer, and luau themes at party stores.

### Safety First

Although the pool provides the setting for the perfect summer party, it's also the biggest hazard of the event. When children are in or near the water, make sure there are always several adults monitoring the situation. If you don't have them already, purchase life vests and other flotation devices for kids, and encourage parents of little ones to bring their own. If you think the party is going to be too large to keep watch over the pool at all times, hire a lifeguard to help out. You should also have sunscreen on hand, and remind everyone to apply it throughout the day.



## Pool Party Tip

*Use colorful beach towels as tablecloths to soak up spills*

### Party Provisions

The food options are limitless for a pool party. You can opt for a light buffet of fruit and veggie trays and some chips and dip, or you can pull out the grill for hamburgers and hotdogs. Potluck meals are also a great route, as they take the burden of food off of just the host. The easiest option by far though is to order a variety of pizzas and have



# Pool Party Musts

-  Fun reggae music or Beach Boys tunes
-  Smoothies or tropical drinks in plastic cups
-  Squirt guns, water toys, and filled water balloons
-  Beach balls and rubber ducks
-  Bubbles and cool bubble wands



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Clay takes a ride down the water slide

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## Pool Party Tip

*Hire a certified lifeguard to help keep an eye on guests at your party*

them delivered. No matter what your food choice is, it's important to have several beverage options available, since you and your guests will be out in the sun. Try a fun punch or lemonade, along with sodas and of course, water. Because people are going to be in and out of the water and sun, it's safest to avoid serving alcohol. If your party goes into the evening and you have a fire pit, s'mores are a great ending to a fun day.

## Let the Games Begin

Obviously, the pool will be the main source of entertainment. But you can enhance the party experience by purchasing some diving sticks, kickboards, and other water toys. Floating basketball goals and volleyball nets are always fun, and you can set up tournaments and award prizes to the winning team. Noodles, goggles, and flippers are also fun for the kids. For the adults who want to relax in the sun, provide pool loungers and rafts.

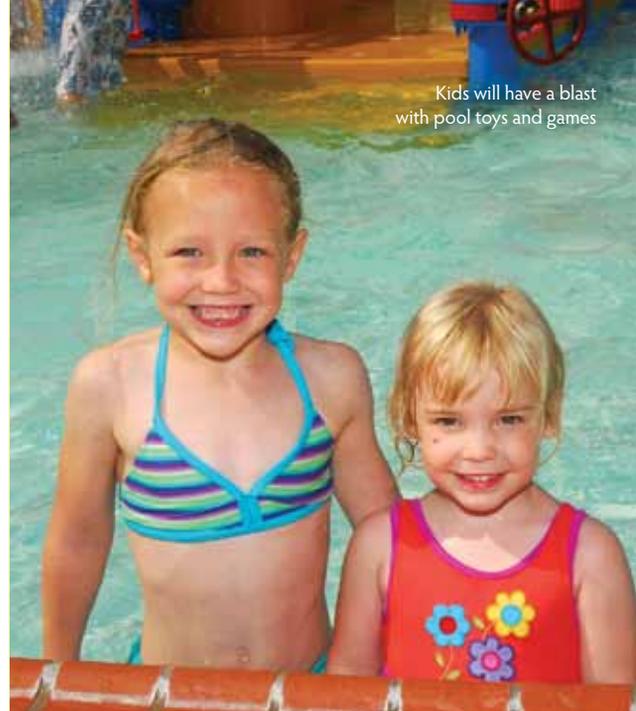
No matter what theme you chose, food you provide, or games you play, the most important thing about the day is that everyone has fun and stays safe. **KM**

*CARLEE BESIER is the assistant editor of Katy Magazine, and she wishes she had a pool so she could throw fun parties this summer.*

Tropical smoothies are a fun pool party drink



Kids will have a blast with pool toys and games



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