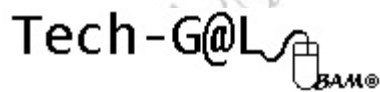


No More Cheesy Birthdays Here



By Beth A. Martin

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Chuck E. Cheese, no more. A kid can be KID without it. Truly I was never a fan of indoor kiddie playgrounds that cost an arm and a leg, but they do serve a purpose when you want a one-stop all inclusive birthday. So here is a list of some inclusive and not-so-inclusive (which require more work) parties. They all can be super fun and are well worth it!

[Bowling](#), rollerskating, [pizza and movie](#), or swimming at [recreation center](#) or [YMCA](#) are always good group parties. Many local businesses have party rooms and rates and even offer snacks and cake. These are usually a per kid price.

Get them outside for a luau party: rent out a pavilion or in your yard, have a splash party with water guns, water balloons, bubbles, sprinklers, etc. Don't forget the [pinata](#).

For Girls:

Fashion Diva Make-over: get tattoos, cheap make-up and nail polish and have the girls make each other over. *

Crazy Hair: get colored hairspray, colored hair extensions, other hair accessories then style hair and add goodies. * <http://www.orientaltrading.com> *Then let them dress up in some of your (not so good) clothes and shoes, make up stage names and announce one another as they strut their stuff.

Karaoke Dance Party: get a microphone and hook it up to your surround system and let them sing and dance their hearts out.

Spa Salon: go to your regular [salon](#) and negotiate a salon party. Either manicures or pedicures and 1 30 mins. or under hairstyle (no wash/cut), 8 11 year old girls with tip \$170 for about 3 hours.

Japanese Steakhouse: go to a [Japanese Steakhouse](#) and (pre-order the children's meals and drinks) negotiate a tip and discount. 10 10 year old girls watch chicken, steak or shrimp meals being cooked with unlimited Shirley Temples and 2 adult meals with tip \$158.

Tea Party: at a [coffee house](#) and have girls dress in their Sunday best. 10 8 year old girls for unlimited tea, cookies and other goodies with tip \$100.

For Boys:

Camping sleepover with tents or Soldier/Army: camo theme with soldier missions and games.

<http://www.birthdaypartyideas.com>

Firefighter: rent out local fire department and have a [fire themed birthday](#).

StarWars: space theme with StarWars games. Dunk the "Death Star", put "lightsaber in Luke's hand". <http://www.kids-birthday-party-guide.com>

Pirate: pirate themed with treasure hunt. http://www.pinatas.com/Kids_Party_Ideas_s/8.htm

Gaming Party: use your gaming [system](#) (Wii) and have little tournaments with scoreboards.

Most of all get the help of your birthday child; have them help plan the party. They will love it and have even more knowing that they helped you plan it!

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