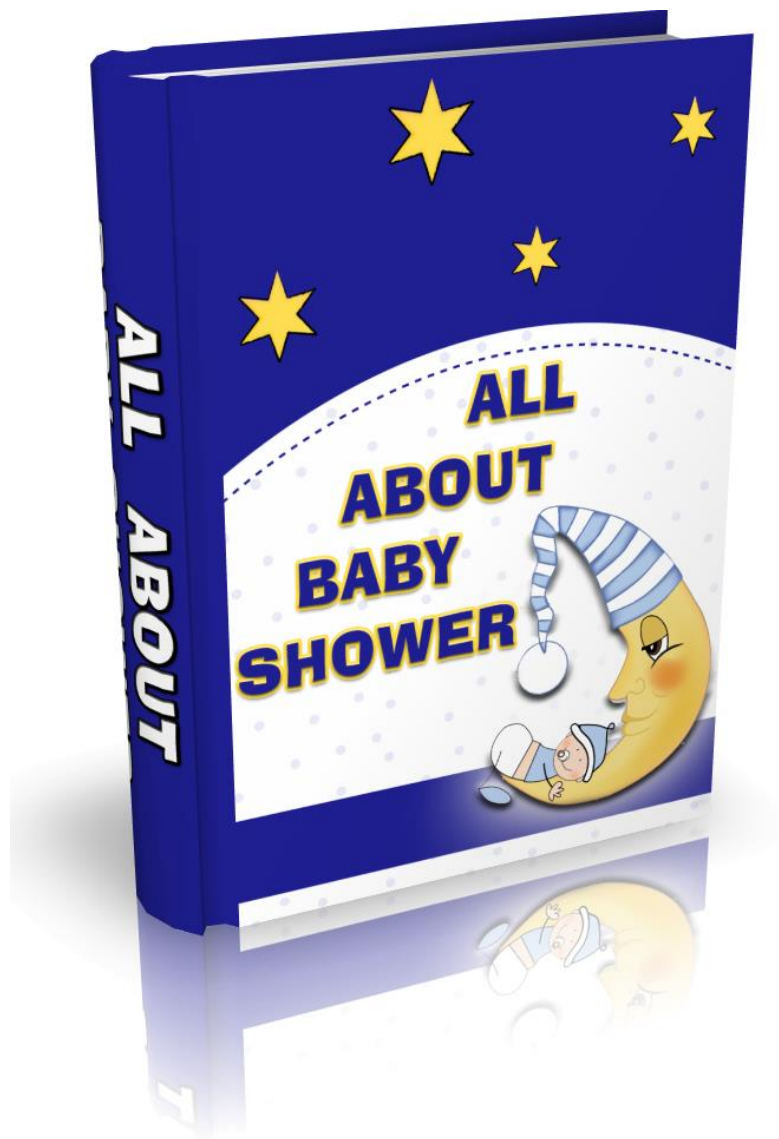


# ALL ABOUT BABY SHOWER

## Special Report



Sarah Dixon

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## Lovely Custom Bedding For Your Baby



The ultimate luxury for you and your baby is custom baby bedding. When you are decorating the baby's nursery, you may have a crib size that is non-standard or an absolutely different wall finish or wallpaper that does not match with bedding that is readily available. So you can try to find custom baby bedding either online or in a store near your home. You will see that the price of custom bedding is not very high – even frequently less than full-blown designer sets.

The primary importance should be given to the baby's comfort and safety when considering custom baby bedding. The fabric used should be washable again and again, colorfast, durable, and it should be 100% cotton. A nice feature would be resistance to stain. Things like fringe or appliqué should be best avoided because they may get loose easily and enter the baby's mouth causing choking. Chenille is a fabric, which may appear to be more desirable, but you should give it a miss in favor of smoother and simpler fabrics.

Know your options when you are out shopping for your baby. Get the price of baby beddings from different designers and also ask them if you have any query. If you provide the designer with your own fabric, then you can do so. Then the designer must reduce the final cost of the baby bedding as per the calculations. The baby should feel comfortable – do not lose sight of the fact by putting more stress on style. As an instance an infant does not need pillows, so skip it. There is a debate about crib bumpers – some think it is important to keep the baby away from the hard surface of the crib, and some think that it poses a similar threat of choking like the pillows.

So keep your eyes open about costs, get a reputed designer and be prepared. It may take four to six weeks to finally get hold of the completed baby bedding, but it will be worth the wait when you it is going to be according to your choice in terms of concept, color and fabric.

## Must Have Supplies For A New Baby

All parents have gone through the same apprehensions when a new baby arrives on the scene because no one can prepare oneself beforehand for the baby. It is almost certain that not matter how much how have strived to put into place everything for the new born; a few things might just get missed. But there is always a valid reason behind it. For parents who are expecting the, wait is considerably exciting, and they tend to lose track of the everyday requirements. Welcome to this article, expectant parents, and get a closer look at what you may want to have for your new infant.

When you are making your home ready for your new born, the usual place to start from is the nursery. Typically, the crib will be the first primary object or furniture that you will purchase for your infant. Take care to check that the crib you buy fulfills all the compulsory and legal safety norms. Again, you should spend money on a good mattress for the crib, because your baby would be spending more than seventy percent of his time lying there at least in the first year of his life. Another thing to look for is bedding, and it involves the discretion of your private taste. Remember to get a cover for the mattress too. You can also invest in a changing table if you so desire since its not very critical. A must-have for your baby's nursery is a baby monitor which you should not ignore to buy at all.

Now comes the question of baby supplies. It is true that parents instinctively understand the needs of their babies, yet it will do no harm at all to sometimes take a breath and reflect on the choices now and then. There are so many choices out there and they all are very popular. Always buy soap and shampoo that is gentle on the skin, since chemicals and perfumes can be damaging on a baby's young and new flesh.

You should also use a soft, natural and a good quality moisturizer for the baby. A few parents find it necessary to apply powder on the baby's bottom to keep it from getting damp. Get hold of a baby powder that is devoid of talcum powder. Find one with a cornstarch base because otherwise it can be fatal if inhaled.

After you put into place all the required items and the necessary furniture, you can give a thought to the fun and entertainment aspect of the nursery. While it is true that the world itself is as an oyster for the baby, full of new discoveries and wonder, it will do the baby good to have some toys and playthings to keep himself entertained. A mobile would be a good choice for the baby lying for hours in his crib. Soft toys like bears and bunnies can be very interesting and it will be more so if they can provide sensory experiences too. As your child gets older, teething toys would become a part and parcel of his life. Go ahead and splurge on the toys available on the market for your baby, but be sure to check out the safety guidelines and consumer reports for specification about recalls.

## Planning A Baby Shower For Her



Your best friend just called you and told you the good news - she is pregnant! After you get over the initial shock and excitement, your next move is probably to begin planning a shower for her. There are many things to think about when planning a shower for someone - the guest list, decorations, games, refreshments - the list goes on and on.

Although most everyone loves a surprise party, you want to consider asking the mom-to-be's opinion when planning her shower.



There may be certain people she would like to invite and certain things she wants (such as a certain theme for the shower). Plus, at this point in her pregnancy, the mom-to-be may be freaking out about the baby's impending birth, so another surprise might not be what she needs at the moment.

## Place

Find out a good date and time for the shower as well as where she would like to have it. The location of the shower may depend on the size of the guest list. If you are only inviting a few friends, you should volunteer to have it at your house if possible. Some people who have larger showers may need to find another location such as a church, a conference room at work, a restaurant (in a closed off area), or a country club. If you are having the shower during months with pretty weather, you might even consider having it outside, although you should always consider the comfort of the mom-to-be.

## Guest List

The guest list for a shower is very important. You want to include all the important people in your friend's life. A great way to decide on the list is to ask your friend to meet you somewhere nice for a relaxing lunch and while there, you can go over the list. Or, maybe treat her to having a pedicure and you can talk about it while you have your nails done. Just be sure to have her bring her address book so you can get the addresses you need. You should let her decide whether it is going to be a girl's only shower or a shower for everyone.

If she would like the father-to-be there, he may be more comfortable with other men around, so consider inviting her brothers, father, stepfather, uncles and any other men she would like to have there. Since she probably has a lot of her mind, try and help her think of people she would like to invite from places such as work, high school, college, or church.

## Registry

The mom-to-be may already be registered somewhere, but if not, try to encourage her to do so. She can register online at many places such as Wal-Mart and Target, so she doesn't even have to leave home to do it. This will give the guests a good idea of what she needs and prevent her from getting three strollers. Be sure to include her registry information in the invitations for guests.

## Invitations

Once you get the guest list set, you will need to choose invitations. Again, these depend on the size of the shower. If you are only having a few people, you may want to purchase invitations at a local party store and hand address each envelope. However, if you are having a larger shower, you may want to order engraved invitations from somewhere that will do all the addressing for you. No matter what you decide, be sure to involve the mom-to-be in the process of choosing.

## Itinerary

Once the invitations go out, you need to plan the actual shower. Again, consult the mom-to-be on this. Do you want to do a theme for the party decorations? If you know if it is going to be a boy or a girl, this is a great idea. If you don't know what it is going to be, you can always go with a generic theme like Disney or Blues Clues. Some people like showers that include games and some do not, so you will need to ask her about this. You will also need to decide what type of food to serve. You may want to serve a full meal, appetizers or just cake and desserts. Again, take the mom-to-be into consideration. If she has been having awful heartburn, you may not want to serve spicy entrees.

Also, some pregnant women develop gestational diabetes and may be on strict diets. And don't forget drinks - do you want punch, soda, or tea?

Miscellaneous things to think about include keeping tabs on how many people plan to attend, photography (if you have a digital camera, this works great), assigning someone to write down gifts and names, and cleaning up afterwards.

Don't forget to figure out how the mom-to-be will get all her gifts home. If the father-to-be is there, he can load and unload stuff, but if not, you may want to assign someone to follow her home with the gifts or volunteer to bring them over later yourself.

There is a lot of planning to a baby shower, but in the end, your friend will enjoy it and love you for having one for her.

## Planning For A Baby Shower

Who doesn't get excited when a baby is on its way? Aside from their caring mothers, everyone in the family gets that certain thrill. Welcoming yet another being in this beautiful world comes with a certain joy.

So how else can you celebrate a soon-to-be-child arrival? Have a blast with a baby shower party.

Planning a baby shower can be really fun. You can create your own party as you wish. You can either go traditional or put a little humor to your event.

You can choose whatever theme you want. Unleash your creativity. The main goal is simply to have your baby shower unforgettable and fun for everyone.

To get you started, the tips below can absolutely help you with the steps of creating that perfect baby shower party for you.

### Be prepared

Plan ahead of time. It is best to hold baby showers either on the seventh or eighth month of pregnancy.

Look for a perfect location.

You can opt to have your house or the backyard as your event area. If you have an extravagant budget you can scout for convenient party places which can hold your guests.

Set the right date and time

Be sure to check out your guests' availability, from their schedule where most of your expected guests can be free. Set a date that could easily fit to their other engagements.

Think of the perfect theme

There are hundreds of baby shower themes that you can choose from. Popular choices are teddies, cartoon themes, or balloons. The possibilities are endless.

Surprise her

To make the party more momentous, you can make a surprise baby shower for the guest of honor. Consult her close and relatives when preparing your guest list.

## Impress with invitations

Send out invitations at least three weeks before the event. Match your invitations with the theme of the party itself with the theme of the party itself. Be sure that the invitations contain all vital information like date, time and sketched- up location. Be creative in designing your invitations.

## Planning for Baby Showers - Pregnancy Result and it is all systems go



A positive pregnancy test result sends a signal to close friends and family that it is all systems go for the holding of a baby shower party for the expectant mother. Baby Showers are parties that are held to celebrate the new edition expected at a later date. Shower parties and the planning of them have dramatically changed over the years.

A lot of thought goes behind the event. Through out the early months of pregnancy the expectant mother rests while the party is carefully organized by the select chosen few. In the past Baby Showers were usually arranged by non relatives but that has all changed. Mother-to-be is the only person who does not get involved with the preparations.

Knowing who to invite can be difficult, once upon a time the only inclusion on the invite list was that of immediate family.

You can approach mum-to-be on this part but if it is to be a surprise celebration then you will have to scout around and do a little homework on who to invite. The birth of every baby born into the same family is now celebrated with a Baby Shower party. Traditionally it was the first born that was recognised in this manner.

Gatherings for the first born normally had more guests attending the baby shower party than that of the second or third child.

Intimacy prevails at baby showers so try your best to keep your friends as close knit as they get. Different ways of sending invitations is best checked out. Email or the telephoner are two ways for inviting but the nicest and more appropriate is to send a personalized invitation card this way the guest gets to keep a little memento of the day.

Guys and dolls in unison work together when making babies but what of the men at baby shower parties. This type of occasion intends to have more feminine involvement but if guys feel comfortable with this then so be it.

Where the event should be held and celebrated is entirely up to you, a popular choice is in back gardens, but venues like halls, restaurants are as much appropriate for on the day of the baby shower. Depending on your list of guests the size of the venue will have to be taken into account for comfort for all attending.

The best time to throw a Baby Shower party is at least two months before the baby is expected to make his/her appearance. This gives people chance that come bearing gifts enough time to make their donations in hope that mum-to-be has not already purchased the same items. Baby Showers for expecting mothers are a lovely and thoughtful surprise therefore less stress for the expectant mum when it comes to organizing events as such. A properly coordinated baby shower will leave guests with memories of a phenomenal and everlasting day/night to remember. Memories relate to something that happened in the past that you recall and reminisce about but if they are FOND memories then they will remain in your thoughts every day from that day on.

## Planning Your Baby Shower Menu

Along with planning the baby shower theme, games, and guests, a baby shower host must also plan the menu. A baby shower with no food certainly would not be a happy event, especially for the pregnant mom who is most always thirsty, especially in the last trimester of pregnancy. Guests often enjoy socializing with each other over good food and drink. The menu is a very important part of a good baby shower.

When thinking of the menu, you should first have an idea of how many guests will be attending the shower, and then add a few more just to be on the safe side. Planning for more people will ensure you don't run out of food halfway through, and the expectant mother can take any leftovers home, saving her the trouble of cooking, at least for that night anyway. If it is intended only to be a small gathering, then the host may opt to serve an entire meal, rather than the traditional finger foods and deserts. Large affairs are better suited to appetizers, soups, chips, finger foods. You, the host, will most likely be the one doing all the work, and footing the bill, so how involved the menu becomes should really be your choice.

Equally important as knowing how many guests to expect is knowing what time of day the shower is going to be held. If it is an afternoon shower, then most of your guests will have already eaten lunch and will be fine with finger foods and deserts. If you are planning an evening or lunch shower, then you should probably try to serve some kind of light meal, as most of your guests will probably not have eaten. Salad works well as a filler, and it is something that almost everyone likes, so if you are going to offer a meal, it would probably be good to include as an appetizer.

You should try to incorporate the baby shower theme in to your menu in some way. Maybe, for instance, if the expectant parents are having a baby boy, mix up a blue drink... maybe Sprite and blue food coloring would do the trick. There are many ideas available for themes and decorating for showers on the internet, just do some research and find one that will fit your particular shower.

Another important thing to keep in mind is how many people you will have to help you pull all this off. If you are working solo, a full course meal may be hard to pull off, and also hard on your budget as well. Time is another essential, especially if you are going it all alone. You don't want guests to arrive and still be preparing the menu.

Planning a baby shower can be a lot of work, and quite expensive as well. It is important to plan ahead, and pace yourself well. Enlist as much help as possible, as you will definitely be thankful for it. Expect the unexpected, and be prepared to have lots of fun!

## Sweeter Than Sweet - Baby Shower Cakes



More popular than ever at these baby party gatherings are Baby shower cakes. Specially designed baby shower cakes go down really well if added with personal touches, this can be with baby's name, Mummy or Daddy's, even candles and toys. We all know cake is a delight to eat so why not make you baby shower cake extra delightful by adding a theme to suit you and baby.

It is a good idea for mum-to-be when out shopping for a baby showers cake is to have in mind what she wants before visiting the bakery. Flavour is important in a baby shower cake; a good idea is to stick with a sponge covered in cream. The reason being is should the cake be rich and filled with marzipan then this may not be to everyone's taste, but with surrounding other small dainties of different flavours then surely all will be pleased.



The cake centre piece will be the main attraction for attracting attention from the guests. Baby shower cakes are designed solely for this and are made more pretty for baby's day. Baby shower cakes are known to some as diaper/baby cakes' what is the difference? The actual Baby shower cake is a cake that can either be homemade or bought from the bakery. While 'diaper cakes' are baby shower basketfuls of goodies containing more diapers (not for human consumption).

Homemade baby shower cakes are baked in the same way as any other cake the only difference is more goes into the baby cake as in i.e. creating those personal little touches that mean so much.

Quality bakers who specialize in designer cakes are the best to approach, this way a guarantee of cake freshness appetizing and pretty to look at as eye candy. When you shop for baby shower cakes make sure to do this in advance in order to get the right cake for the baby shower party. Bakeries that cater for baby shower parties are normally very busy. The flavour for your chosen cake is most probably where you may experience problems because of the wide variety of choice. Marzipan, currants, sultanas are ingredients for rich mixes and I hasten to add not to everyones taste. If baking your own opt for the simple sponge cake, how you tart it up as in i.e. decoration is a different matter. Select the right cake to give ending to the sweetest beginning.

## The Best Baby Shower Gift Ideas

In anticipation of the arrival of a new baby typically friend will have a baby shower for the expecting mother. This is a special celebration of motherhood that is typically held around three months before the baby is due. However now and days some people are even having baby showers after the baby is born. There are benefits either way.

It is customary for guests to bring some type of gift to the baby shower. These typically are something for the mother or baby. Picking these gifts can be a lot of fun for guests.

It can be a real joy to think about the future baby and his/her mother and things they might like. Shopping for toys, diapers, bottles or other such baby items can be enjoyable.

However picking just the right gift can be difficult also. You want to find something that the mother too be or baby will use and something that they do not already have. This can pose a difficult problem. Here are some suggestions to picking the perfect baby shower gift.

**Tip #1** Buy something practical - Things that the all babies use frequently can be very practical and ensure that what you buy is useful. Things like baby ointments, baby lotions, diapers, wipes, baby power, and other stuff. By placing these all in a cute basket it will scream baby shower gift! Buying a baby shower gift this way you can be sure that it will be put to good use. All babies need diapers and they go through them at an amazing rate. In fact this can be a huge expense for the new family. By buying useful objects like diapers, ointments and other functional products you will help defray some of the cost and the parents will think of you every time they change a diaper.

**Tip #2** Buy something that is fun for the baby - Another fun tip and easy gift is to buy something that is fun for the baby like a toy. Today they have tons of great toys that vibrate, play music, and have colorful lights. These are all great toys and very helpful for the babies brain development. The more babbies explore and play the faster their brain connections develop. So not only will you be giving a fun gift you will be helping the child develop their brains. Things like swings, bouncy seats, high chairs, rockers or small soft play toys can all be great gift ideas.

**Tip #3** Buy some clothes - This one can be a very fun gift. It is hard for anyone to resist the cute little clothes that babies wear. Just imagining those small feet, hands and body filling the tiny clothes can be a joy in itself. When buying clothes it is better to stay with pretty practical things to ensure that the baby will get to wear it a few times. Things that need to be dry-cleaned, ironed, or etc probably will not ever be worn by the bay because of the extra time and effort required by the mother to use these clothes.

Also buying clothes in medium sizes or a variety of different sizes. Typically a family will get tons of clothes that are for newborns. That is what everyone like to buy as they imagine the baby. However to be unique and provide something that is useful at the same time buying clothes that are 3 to 6 or 6 to 9 months can be fun for the parents and make for a unique gift.

Tip #3 Buy something that is practical for mom - Buying gifts for the future mom can also be a lot of fun and very practical and something you can be sure they will use. Things like a diaper trashcan that keeps the smell of dirty diapers down, a sling to carry the baby, or a diaper bag can all be helpful. The mom to be has the hardest job of all. She will be getting up at all hours of the night to feed and comfort the baby along with being overwhelmed at having to take care of a brand new life. Giving some gift that can help make her life easier is often very appreciated.

Tip# 4 Buy something just for mom - Yes a baby shower is supposed to technically be for the baby. However moms are often nervous about the new life that will be coming to them and also can feel very exhausted from both the pregnancy and the delivery of a new baby. Buying a gift for her can be something that gives her a little boost.

Things that will make mom's life a little easier are always appreciated. A gift certificate to a local mall so mom can get away for a break and do a little fun shopping is often very appreciated. Other options for mom might include gift certificates for food, especially from places that deliver will typically be used. Even cooking a dinner for the future parents can be incredibly helpful. Also to unwind a subscription to a magazine can be a nice gift for a mom.

By following these tips you can find a fun gift that will celebrate the mom to be and the baby that is on it's way into the family. This can be a very fun time and while shopping for such gifts can be difficult at times if you go early and think about the suggestions above and just have fun and find what you like the gift is sure to be something that the mother and baby will be happy to receive and use frequently.

Remember that a baby shower is a special time for the parents, mother and baby to be welcomed into the world. It is a great chance to boost the mother to be and prepare her for the hard work of being a mother. It is also a wonderful chance to celebrate the birth of a new life. Babies are so cute this can be a fun time for everyone. To ensure that you get the right baby shower gift take your time, relax and follow some of the suggestions above.

## Theme for Your Baby Shower



It is always a great joy to have someone added to your family, especially if it is a cute little baby. And how else would you celebrate the joy of having one?

Plan the most fun and unique baby shower you'll ever have. Preparing for a baby shower should be fun and exciting. You can be as creative as you want.

Go simple or go real extravagant. As long as you will make your party special and unforgettable, you can go ahead and experiment on the different themes you can have.

You can go traditional or get a little creative and make your baby shower a lot more unique. You can spice up the party with different themes that can either be serious, adorable or humorous.

Below are some popular themes ideas that would surely be a hit in any baby showers.

## Color themes

The usual color themes for girls are pink and blue for the boys. These are simple themes that can be just as fun as other themes. Decorate your venue with your chosen color theme. In putting up colored ribbons, intertwine them with a white ribbon too. This would give the room an elegant look. If you are unsure whether your baby would be a boy or a girl, settle for neutral colors like green or yellow.

## Baby bottles theme

You can have a baby bottle as your centerpiece in this particular theme. Use them as cute containers for game prizes. You can make fun of them too by using baby bottles as cups or mugs.

## Teddy bear theme

Everyone loves these cuddly teddies. They are perfect for decorations. You don't have to buy teddy bears though to fill up the room. Old but presentable ones will do. It would be memorable to have the guest of honor's favorite teddy as a centerpiece.

## Diaper theme

Begin with sending cute diaper cut- out invitation. Guests should bring their own diaper gifts with a particular size. This way, you can save on diapers even up to three months!

## Nursery rhyme theme

It's a good idea to make nursery rhymes as theme for your party. You can make use of famous character like Humpty Dumpty, Little Bo Peep, or the famous Mother Goose. Pictures could be nice as decorations but it would really look nice if you have some kind of a replica. You can also add on some of the line to your invitations.

## Themes for twins

Remember the famous Noah's ark story? All animals are paired in two's when lodging the ark. It's the perfect theme for expectant mothers of twins. Don't forget to note in your invitation that you will be having twins, this way; guests will have to bring two gifts of either the same kind or two different ones.

## Fairytale Themes

There are thousand of fairytale characters that have been a tradition throughout baby shower parties. Cinderella and Snow White are the most common ones for girl. Peter Pan is the most suitable character for boys. This kind of theme can be made interesting with colorful decorations and creates a fantasy-like atmosphere.

Having a theme in your baby shower can add a little more coordination in the things you need to prepare. A theme would dictate which kind of food you need to prepare, the look of the invitations and how you would decorate your chosen venue. With a theme, you would have to be groping in the dark on how you would create that perfect baby shower.

## Throwing A Baby Shower : What You Need To Know

Throwing baby showers is a time-honored way to celebrate the impending addition of a new member to a loved one's family. Traditionally, a baby shower is a "girls only" event, often hosted by the baby's godmother, but today baby showers can be hosted by any friend or relative of the mother-to-be, and can be attended by whomever the host wishes to invite.

The general purpose of a baby shower is to give useful gifts to the expectant mother, such as layette items, baby toys and clothes, and often gift certificates for useful things. It is not untoward for the expectant parents to draw up a "wish list" of items they especially need but may be having difficulty affording.

Baby showers are a relatively recent tradition, generally credited as having their start in the US. A baby shower is usually a relatively casual event, held in the afternoon or early evening, often with refreshments provided and sometimes party games held as well.

It is not uncommon to have a potluck shower, where guests each bring a food item along with a gift, although fully catered showers are also quite common.

Party games, if the host chooses to have them, generally center around the general theme of the baby and pregnancy, ranging from themed versions traditional games like charades to activities such as guessing the circumference of the pregnant guest-of-honor.

While many parents-to-be look forward to having a baby shower, some social groups feel such celebrations are best left as family affairs, or believe that it is bad luck to celebrate a birth before it happens. If you offer to host a shower for an expectant friend, don't be hurt if she politely declines.

In other cases, the mother-to-be may have multiple showers! Perhaps one for co-workers and casual friends, and one for close friends and family. Some women have a baby shower only for their first child, while others may choose to have one for every pregnancy.

Baby showers are not bound by rigid traditions to the same extent as weddings and other life events, so don't be surprised if a new friend's baby shower is nothing like the last one you attended.

There is really no "wrong" way to throw a baby shower, so if you have been charged with hosting a shower for a friend or relative, it's an "anything goes" affair (so long as you have the guest of honor's stamp of approval for your plans!).

## Throwing a Baby Shower Your Guests Will Remember



Are you in charge of planning a baby shower? Do you need a baby shower theme? Decorations? Favors? This guide will give you baby shower ideas, whether you are a sister, friend, or coworker.

### Baby Shower Themes

The first and most difficult thing to do when planning a baby shower is to decide on a theme. After this has been finalized, much of the rest of the shower will plan itself.

There are several ways to pick a theme.

A baby shower theme can relate to the mother-to-be and what she needs. It can be a color, a nursery theme, or a specific type of item. For instance, if the nursery is decorated in flowers, the theme could be "A Baby's Garden." If it is decorated in a sports motif, the theme could be the parents' favorite sports team. All the gifts would then coordinate with the room. If the nursery is painted with frogs, the theme could be "Green." This way, the guests can be a little more creative in their giving. Or the theme could be "Bedtime," prompting guests to bring pajamas, blankets, and crib items.

For a second (or third, or fourth) time mother, the theme can be really creative. For someone who already has almost everything they need, a theme such as "Reading," in which everyone brings books for the baby (and maybe for the older children as well) would be a nice change of pace.

Some people do not like to attend showers for second time mothers, because they feel that they have already received what they needed for their first child and are just being greedy.

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If you feel this may be the case for your guests (such as a group of coworkers), throw a baby shower in which the invitation clearly states not to bring a present. Or spend some money on a nice gift (for instance, a gift certificate to a restaurant, spa, or hotel), and ask that guests bring a specific item (diapers, specific baby food) in exchange for a raffle ticket. They can even bring as many items as they would like in exchange for several tickets. That way, people who wish to be generous can still give the mother-to-be a useful gift, and no one feels obligated to bring anything. At the end of the night, raffle off the prize.

Some other theme ideas include:

Look What the Stork is Bringing

Noah's Ark (good for a shower where the guys are invited too!)

Alphabet Soup

Blue is for Boy

### Baby Shower Decorations

The decorations should flow from the theme. A color theme is the most flexible and inexpensive, although a specific theme such as "Teddy Bears" will be easy, as you can buy coordinating tablecloths, plates, and napkins.

Keep the decorations simple. Put a nice tablecloth under the cake and spread some confetti rattles around it. Tie some balloons to the buffet or appetizer table. Add some pastel streamers across the living room, and you're done.

After all, the focus should be on the mother-to-be. If you are having the shower at work, the decorations can be even easier. Simply put the cake under a white tablecloth and add a bouquet of balloons.

A lunchtime event is perfect for the office. Many of the baby shower ideas will work for any location, indoors or out.

## Baby Shower Favors

After the shower, give your guests something to remember it by. Candle holders in the shape of a baby item, such as a rattle or booties, are popular and easy to find online or in a party supply store. Other favor ideas include magnets or candies in a pretty gift box. Of course, let the favors flow from the theme. At "Tea Party" themed baby shower, guests might receive tea cups and saucers. At a "Pamper Party," an idea increasingly popular for mothers who already have several children and therefore most of the stuff they actually need, they might take home spa accessories such as a loofah or bubble bath.

## Baby Shower Schedule

Typically, a baby shower will last approximately two hours. If a full meal will be served, be sure to indicate this on the invitation so guests can plan accordingly. Usually, however, some light appetizers, punch, and cake are all that is needed. The following is a general idea of a schedule.

As your guests arrive, serve them some appetizers, and let them sign a guest book. One idea is to make this an advice book, allowing each guest to write down one piece of advice they would give the new mother.

Serve simple appetizers. Two to three dishes is best, along with some cheese, crackers, chips, dip, and fruit.

Some ideas for munchies that are easy and can be made ahead of time include:

Deviled Eggs: Add salsa and cheddar for a Mexican twist!

Stuffed Mushrooms

After all your guests have arrived, begin with everyone introducing themselves. This is especially important if this is a mixed shower, with coworkers, friends, and family. Make sure everyone mentions how they know the mother-to-be. Next, play one or two games. These will serve as icebreakers. Some ideas include:

**Baby Boggle** - See how many baby related words guests can make in three minutes from a sentence such as "I can't believe [Mother-To-Be's Name] is going to have a baby!" or something else silly and fun. Everyone reads their list, crossing off duplicates, and the person with the most remaining wins.

**Baby Box** - Place some common baby items (rattle, diaper) in a box. Cut a small hand-sized hole in the side. Give each guest 20 seconds to touch as many items as they can (no peeking!), then have them write down what they felt. The person with the most correct wins.

Remember, short is good, and have fun!

If there is going to be a full meal, now is the time. Generally, a buffet is best, as the guests can eat while the mother-to-be opens her gifts. If there is not going to be a full meal, give everyone some time to get another round of appetizers, then have the guest of honor open her presents.

After the gifts are open, serve the cake. At this point, the shower is over. Everyone will socialize for as long as they'd like, and the guests will begin to leave.

If the time is important (i.e. the host has somewhere she needs to be), be sure to put an end time of the invitations. Hopefully this gave you enough baby shower ideas to begin brainstorming. Remember to have fun, and you'll throw a successful baby shower.

## Time For Baby Shower Fun And Games!

When you create the guest list for your baby shower, you will probably see that you have gathered together an eclectic group of family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, church friends – most of whom won't know each other! The best way to break the ice is to play a few baby shower games and get everyone laughing and comfortable.

### Baby Shower Game - How Much Does It Cost?

From the local grocery store or drug store, gather together a grab bag of baby items – wipes, diapers, baby food, lotion, baby wash – and keep the receipt. When you get home, print up lists of everything in the bag, one for each guest, and leave a space for them to guess the price of each item. Everyone at the baby shower guesses the cost of each item and whomever comes closest to the correct total, wins a prize. The shopping bag, of course, goes to the mom to be.

### Baby Shower Game 2 – Primetime Parenting

What are your family's favorite shows? Is it re-runs of Roseanne and Bewitched or the latest primetime sitcoms?

For your baby shower, make a list of your favorite shows, leaving the correct number of blanks for the number of children in each show. Each guest at the shower tries to fill in all the blanks (correctly!) and the one with the most right answers, get a prize!

### Baby Shower Game 3 – Feeding Time

If you're having a hard time drawing the guy's interest in your baby shower, try the Feeding Time game. Fill up one 4 ounce bottle for each male at the baby shower with a palatable drink, like juice. On your mark, each guy will drink from his bottle and not stop until it's empty. Keep a stopwatch if you like or simply watch closely to see who finishes first. The one who does gets a prize!

## Baby Shower Game 4 – Now I Know My ABCs...

On an index card or pieces of construction paper, write down one letter of the alphabet until you have a card for each letter. Each of the guests at your baby shower will pick a baby item that starts with their letter and turn it in to the host. Everyone guesses which item was chosen and the first one to answer correctly gets the card. The guest with the most cards at the end of the alphabet wins the game! No matter what games you choose to play, make sure that everyone is included. A baby shower isn't a party until everyone is laughing!

## Who Should I Invite To A Baby Shower?



It's often a challenge to decide just who to invite to your baby shower. What is the proper etiquette and how do you avoid hurting someone's feelings?

When determining your guest list, it's important to define your target group. Is it your idea to host the traditional women only gathering or will you include children? Today it's becoming increasingly popular to invite couples and/or complete families.

When you decide on the type of shower you are going to be hosting make sure your invitations are precisely worded, such as "women only", "children welcome" and so on based on your decision. If you are planning a specific theme make sure this is included on your invitations as well as any special instructions such as what to bring, how to dress, and directions to the party location. This will save you countless telephone inquiries regarding the specifics of your shower plans.

Always ask your invited guests to RSVP and keep in mind that typically about 20-25% of those confirming will ultimately fail to attend for a variety of reasons.

Baby Showers held at an office, social club or church have a pre-determined guest list of co-workers, club members or fellow church members but make sure that you find out if your shower is the only one being held for the mom to be. If it is, then you may want to extend invitations to her personal friends and family. It may take a bit of discreet probing to find out if there are additional showers planned.

Alternatively, if you are a friend or family member planning the only shower, it's a thoughtful idea to make a call to the prospective mother to be's employer to find out who should be invited from her workplace.

In most cases her husband should be able to supply contact information for her friends and work associates. Don't forget that if your shower is the sole party planned, you should extend invites to the mom's family as well as her husband's family.

## Using Baby Shower Clipart To Spice Things Up

If you're planning a baby shower and starting to look at invitations, you'll certainly want to look into finding some quality baby shower clip art. Putting baby shower clip art is the easiest and most affordable way to make your invitations, announcements and even party favors more interesting. They can help you design the perfect card, poster, flyer for the up and coming baby shower. And the best part about using baby shower clip art is that you don't need to be an artist to use them. Aside from invitations and favors, you could also use baby shower clipart to create baby shower keepsakes and scrap booking accents for you, your family and your friends

There are many types of baby shower clip art. The range goes from the outrageously funny, irresistibly cute to the heartwarmingly sentimental. Of course on top of the list are drawings of babies in various positions. You have babies alone, babies with bottles, babies with teddy bears, babies with blankets or babies tucked in a cradle. You will find baby clip art pictures of babies with diapers, babies with no diapers, babies with a brother or sister, babies with a cute animal or pet, etc.

Everyone find babies cute, cuddly and adorable and everyone simply loves looking at baby pictures. Putting baby shower clip art in your wedding invitation or flyer is a wise decision since it will definitely attract attention.

Another good thing about baby shower clipart is that it is very easy to find. And usually you can get them free of charge. And even if you have to pay a fee, it is often very affordable. And the money you shell out will definitely be worth it since baby shower clipart have hundreds if not thousand of uses.

The Internet is a treasure trove of baby shower clipart ready for you to download. There are literally thousands of available baby shower clipart on the world wide web. You wouldn't have a hard time looking for them.

And whatever baby shower you are planning to do, for sure there is a baby shower clipart that is appropriate for it. That's because there is a very wide category of baby shower clipart which contains different styles and designs that are perfect for any baby shower needs. And it doesn't matter if the baby is a boy or a girl. For sure there is a baby shower clipart made for specifically for each gender and there are many that are made for both.

The only real rule that you need to remember when using baby shower clipart is to use a single theme all throughout your project. For example, your invitation and thank you notes should match so you must use the same style or design of baby shower clipart when making both.

Another rule is not to clutter your project with too many different baby shower clipart. Doing so would only make your project look messy. You must also pay attention to things like color, size and format of the baby shower clipart.

You must also learn how to experiment with sizes, colors and themes. Put some clipart together and see what works for you. All you need is a little practice and patience and you'll soon be creating your baby shower masterpiece.

Save money by using baby shower clipart. You need not spend a fortune on baby shower invitation and favors. All you need is your creativity and some baby shower clipart and you're ready to make the most memorable baby shower.

## Top Ten Baby Presents - Buy Baby Gift Items That Are Needed



It is always difficult to come up with ideas regarding what to get when you need to buy baby gift items. Baby gifts are as much for the mother as for the baby since there are many items that a mother could use but cannot necessarily afford to buy. So, the next time a baby shower, a birthday party or a christening has to be attended, use the following list of ten ideas to buy baby gift items that will make an impression:

### Top Ten Baby Gifts

**Baby Toys** - These are baby gifts that will never go out of style, and can be actually enjoyed by the baby instead of the parents.



There are baby toys that are specifically designed for certain age groups. So, all one has to do is go to the market and buy a toy that is made for the appropriate age, which is put up on the cover or packing of the toy. But the best and the most liked baby toy is a teddy bear or other soft toy, which is appropriate for babies of all ages. So if there is confusion, it is best to buy baby gift toys that are soft and plush.

**Baby Monitor** - Baby safety is constantly on the minds of the parents. Baby monitors are a perfect solution to end this worry. Now it's possible to monitor and detect the movements, whining and breathing of the baby audibly and visually too. There are many different models of audio-only, audio/video, and motion-sensor baby monitors to choose from in a wide price range.

**Baby Bath Care** - Getting an expensive bath care set for the baby is the perfect way to show that you care about the welfare of the baby.

**Baby Stroller** - This is a device that a parent cannot do without. It has to be bought anyway, so why not save the parents that much cash? Gift it instead of something that is completely unnecessary.

**Baby Books** - Gifting the baby with books, appropriate for his/her age, is always good. This actually helps in developing a joy of reading from a very young age. Pictures and colors fascinate the baby's eyes, so make sure your book has a lot of illustrations. Buy baby gift books that have thick, cardboard or other material for durability.

**Baby Blankets and Sleep Kits** - Getting a cozy baby blanket and other sleep accessories is a perfect way of celebrating the baby's arrival. These days, it is possible to customize the baby blankets. A personalized baby blanket is a truly unique gift. They are available in many colors, materials and designs. The next time you need to buy baby gift items, consider a personalized baby blanket!

Baby Clothes - Smart clothes for the baby will definitely make the parents happy, especially if it's the second child. The baby will be spared from using hand-me-downs! These days, baby clothing is given a lot of importance, and one is likely to find beautifully made baby clothes in the market, keeping in mind the contemporary trends in fashion. To buy baby gift items that are useful, always consider baby clothes.

Baby Bedding - This will include everything from the mattress to the blanket and pillows, as well as the mosquito netting.

Baby Bouncers - Baby bouncers are the baby's sitting place, where he/she can roll and bounce and have the time of his/her life. These are somewhat like a bean bag, with a belt, to ensure the safety of the baby. Buy baby gift bouncers or other mobile-type walker since parents need an item like this.

Baby Jewels - A jewel is a priceless gift that will be cherished for a lifetime. They also make a unique baby gift. There are many websites online which are dedicated to baby accessories that carry baby jewelry and have their items displayed online. They also ship and home deliver the items, so that you don't need to go out and purchase them.

When you have to buy baby gift items, the above choices are always winners!