

How To Have A Roaringly Successful Baby Shower

HOW TO HAVE A ROARINGLY SUCCESSFUL BABY SHOWER SELECTED TIPS - 117 PAGES!



117 Pages!

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Planning The Shower

There's an ongoing debate - that can actually become quite emotional and vocal - that tried to determine whether or not a relative should throw the baby shower. Traditionally, the view has been that a relative should not throw a baby shower, because it can appear that the relative is requesting gifts. Yet traditions change, and there are times when a sibling, or a cousin, or an aunt might be the ideal and somewhat convenient choice.

So what should you do? To answer this, we can respond with the best, and sometimes most unsatisfying answer of them all: it depends.

Sorry, but it really does depend. If you hail from a rather traditional or conventional background, it may be wise to see that a non-relative is in charge of the baby shower. In addition, even if you, personally, are comfortable with a relative throwing the baby shower, some of your guests - who may be less comfortable with it than you - may object (or just whisper about it behind your back).

Use your judgment here. Perhaps the most practical advice is this: if you can conveniently and pleasantly not have a relative run things, then that will likely be the best route to go. However, if that's just not possible, plausible, or preferred, then don't feel like you're someone from outer space because you're related to the mother-to-be. More and more people are breaking with tradition; especially since they feel that the perception of a relative "asking for gifts" arguably doesn't exist anymore.

Gifts (which we talk about further on in this book) are rather integral to baby showers; it's quite hard to imagine one without gifts. Since that is the case, whether a relative requests them from those attending the baby shower, or a non-relative requests them, arguably isn't important to those attending. They're likely focused on what the baby shower should focus on: the mother-to-be, and a wonderful opportunity to share in her joy.

When The Shower Should Happen

This is an important question to ask, and of course, to answer. And as usual, there are a few different viewpoints on when to hold the baby shower. Fortunately, however, these views aren't as debatable as they sometimes are when it comes to whether a relative or non-relative should hold the baby shower (as we discussed above). So don't worry; this is a rather easy and straightforward challenge to solve.

Now, the real problem here is simply that there isn't a clear answer to the question: when should the shower happen? The answer to this will almost always depend on factors that are specific to the mother-to-be, the guests, and other issues.

So rather than providing a “one-size-fits-all” answer here - which is something that we can't do without knowing the details of your particular baby shower - let's just look at the variables. Once you know these, you'll easily be able to determine when the baby shower should be held.

The Mother-to-Be

Let's start with mother-to-be. She may have a preference about when the shower should be held; and this preference should be heeded. The father-to-be might also provide input here, which is wonderful and should be part of the overall decision-making process (we take a closer look at “couples” baby-showers later on in this book).

What kinds of things might influence a mother-to-be's preference on when the shower should be held? Some of them prefer to have the shower when they're showing; they may feel that there's something more appropriate (for lack of a better word) about holding a shower when people can actually see that a baby is on the way.

In practical terms, this means that a shower might be held well into the second trimester, or into the third.

How To Go About Sending Out Invitations

A good rule of thumb here is to work with the mother (and ideally, the father) to-be in order to decide who should attend, and who should be left off the list. This is a delicate scenario and can cause a number of minor headaches (even some major ones).

The problem is, simply, that while it would be ideal to invite everyone who would want to attend, that's just not practical; either economically, or simply in terms of planning. Ultimately, decisions will have to be made, and if you can work with the parents-to-be to make these decisions, the chances of making wise ones will increase.

Once you've figured out who to invite - and this process can take a few days of thinking and re-thinking - the next step is to send out the invitations. Ensure that you do this well in advance of the baby shower. There are two major reasons for this.

Firstly, you want to give your invitees enough lead time to that if they do have something planned on the baby shower date that they can, if they wish, move those plans in order to attend. If you don't provide them with enough notice, even if they want to change their existing plans, they might not be able to.

Secondly, you want to give people enough time to RSVP (i.e. confirm their attendance). Some people are not the most organized people in the world, and as such they might not RSVP right away. As such, you want to give them a bit of time to get to this on their ever-growing TO-DO list.

Now, there's another issue here that we should discuss. Some people think, or just assume really, that if you don't RSVP, that means you aren't attending. That's actually not technically correct. RSVP doesn't mean (even in the French language from where it comes) that someone is going to attend. It simply means: please get back to me on this.

To Gift Registry Or Not To Gift Registry

This is another one of those fun decisions that involve the mother-to-be, and probably the father-to-be, as well. Gift registries are, generally speaking, wonderful inventions because they conveniently solve a lot of potentially confusing problems, such as:

- What will the parents-to-be want as a gift?
- What gift items have already been purchased by other invitees?
- What price range is appropriate?

So with all of this evidence in favor of gift registries, why might someone not use one? Well, there are a few reasons.

The simplest reason is one of preference. Some people simply don't want to limit the range of things that guests might buy; especially if some gifts aren't typically found in stores that offer registries. For example, some artistic guests may want to create something for the baby; perhaps a wooden mobile, or a beautiful picture to hang in the baby's room.

These kinds of items, by definition, can't appear on a gift registry; and so parents-to-be might wish to avoid using one.

Another reason is one of cost. Depending on the number of people invited to the baby shower, and presuming that those that have been invited attend, there may be a slight awkwardness if the registry contains gift possibilities that might frankly be outside of a person's price range. This can indeed be awkward.

For example, if 20% of the gifts in the registry are below, say, \$30, there is some possibility that these ones will be snatched up first; thus leaving a latecomer to buy something more expensive, or risk buying something that isn't on the registry at all and therefore might not be wanted by the parents.

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To help deal with this situation, it's possible for you (as the organizer) to informally recommend that people band together to buy certain bigger ticket items, like a crib or a stroller. In this way, people can still stay within their budget limitations, yet purchase something that the parents want, and indeed, need (since babies can be very expensive!).

Remember, of course, that if you choose the registry route, that you provide all the necessary details. It may also be wise to include your phone number if anyone has any questions about gifts or the registry.

Things Never To Do

We've come a long way from charades. Now, there are shelves full of games specifically designed for adults. Some of these games, as you can imagine - or might have even enjoyed yourself a time or two - are of the... er...well, they can be a bit racy. And they can ask awkward questions and inspire awkward moments; because that's part of the fun of the game.

Now, you simply don't want the word "awkward" to be anywhere near your baby shower. In fact, you want to keep awkward at least 500 feet away from your baby shower at all times. So to help do this, ensure that the games you choose are suitable for everyone and won't lead to awkward situations.

Also, think even further than whether the game itself is intended for "adults only". Some games, like Twister, aren't typically enjoyed by people who may be obese, or who are afflicted with a physical limitation.

For example, if one of your guests is confined to a wheelchair, then having a game that requires mobility - like Twister, or a rousing rendition of musical chairs - can be very awkward. It can actually inspire hurt feelings.

Naturally, you can't be expected to plan ahead for every eventuality. You won't know, for instance, that one of the guests had a very traumatic piñata experience as a child, and therefore runs out of the room screaming when she sees one of them flying through the air. So what should you do when you can't know everything that there is to know?

Simple: just have a few options. Keep a few back-up games handy, just in case you detect that people are uncomfortable with the choices. It sounds like a little thing, but it can truly make the difference between keeping awkward at bay, or having it crash the baby shower.

Things NEVER to Do: Don't Ask People to Eat Standing Up

Some people like eating while standing up; particularly kids, who always seem to be on the go and ready to do the next.

Homemade Baby Shower Party Favor Ideas

If you are high on budgeting and would rather spend party favor money on special décor or the catering service or even some fun and enjoyable party games for the baby shower you are planning, why not make them yourself? You can do it at the fraction of the cost of ready-made baby shower party favors and even give them a customized look to encourage the guests to keep them as mementos of a lovely event!

For a thematic baby shower party favor idea, choose to go with related kiddy items such as fabric nappies, feeding bottles and baby booties and fill these up with assorted candies; knot the packages off in style with a ribbon! Perhaps, your guests will find them more useful to you after going through the edibles and gift them back to you (the expectant parents) for your use!

For those that are a dab hand at cooking and baking, this is just the right time to show off those culinary skills: make different varieties and flavors of cookies in kiddy-shapes like bottles, rattles and ducks etc and wrap them in colorful plastic or paper wraps to present as favors!

For a gathering that is bound to have more women attendees than men, scented or floating candles are a great idea as baby shower party favors; these too, can be decorated with fancy ribbons (if you know the baby's gender, go for typical colors such as blue and pink). Votives and scented candles are especially a great bargain since they come in sets and are cost-effective baby shower party favor ideas that can be personalized for the guests.

For those with a hobby such as gardening, the lawn is the best place to hunt for naturally beautiful party favors that guests at a baby shower are sure to love and remember you and your special occasion by: pick seasonal plants and flowers for gifting as party favors. Get small seedling pots; grafting a stem and planting it in the chosen container won't take long and finishing off with a bow is the best way to give something that is eco-friendly and requires tender, loving care –just like babies do, so it's reminiscent of the occasion too!

Using store-bought coffee mugs and wine glasses filled with a gay bunch of flowers is another surefire way to present a party favor at the baby shower that is a style statement yet simple to put-together.

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Last, but not least – for the baby shower party favor with a utility factor, put in assorted baby products such as toiletries and wash cloths, wipes and flannels nestled in a baby basket or hamper with a ribbon-bow to give a cutesy effect. It's bound to be a hit with parents who have babies of their own! Add in a personalized touch with monogramming initials or crafting cute animal characters or cartoons out of fabric bits on diapers and bibs or paint on kiddy stuff with crafting paint so they can be used as keep-sakes of a memorable baby shower event!

So, go ahead and get out that burst of creativity just raring to set the guests ablaze with your innovative styling, ideation and presentation of baby shower party favors you made yourself.

Free Printable Baby Shower Games – How Good Are They?

The internet is a trove of information and a very good place for freebies. The same can be said about free games for baby showers. One may just surf through the baby shower sites and get some ideas about games for baby shower parties or they can choose to go to those sites that offer free printable baby shower games online.

The advantage of these free baby shower printable games from the internet is that it cuts out the chore that the organizers have to go through explaining the process of the game when they give out the prints. These printable baby shower games also are more attractive than the bits and pieces of paper distributed with jumbled words that the guests have to reassemble or match by themselves.

These free printable baby shower games are easier to comprehend and play. The baby shower appears more organized and well managed than the regular baby shower games available in the market, and will be found in every baby shower in the neighborhood. Getting your own baby shower games from the net will make your baby shower look more customized.

Parents appreciate these internet baby shower games as it appears that you have put in more effort to organize the games and make them feel you care for the way they are taken care of at the party.

Free Games Compared To Free Printable Games

The best things are free indeed; however, not all free goodies are equally created and catch the attention of your guests like the free printable baby shower games available on some of the internet sites.

Free printable baby shower games are distinctly better than the free games available in the market. The graphics of the free printable versions can be altered and customized as compared to the other printed free games. Readily available free shower games are not so easy to comprehend and they lack in creativity and ideas.

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Free baby shower games are great to look at because of the superior graphics and the text that can be customized, these games are also very easy for the guests to understand and play.

When you go online to choose a printable game for your celebration, you will be met with a plethora of ideas and designs. You can choose from these games and decide which ones will best suit your guests that will definitely be chosen with care. If you know your guests' nature you will be able to choose the games that will engross them to a great extent.

Many people do not look kindly upon the use of freely available games available in the market. It makes the hostess seem like she was not interested in hosting the party in the first place. However, customized printable baby shower games give the right impression that the hostess has put in some effort into the planning of the party.

Actually, free baby shower games are not that superior-looking. But the fact that it looks better than those that are given for free or is more presentable than those that are written in a sheet of torn leaf of a notebook.

Besides, if you are to look at it on the other aspect, free printable baby shower games are not absolutely free. You still have to invest a little on the ink that you will use. Colorful designs would entail many colored inks.

Consequently, when the parents see the effort and the little investment you have made in order to come up with really nice baby shower games, your work will be more appreciated.

What most people do not know is that free printable baby shower games are categorized as free items because you can download them in the Internet without any download charges. But still, it requires some budget for the ink for you to be able to print them.

Moreover, one of the best things about free printable baby shower games is that you can even customize them to suit the personality of the mother or the mood of the occasion before you print them.

In turn, it will give a more personalized look on the baby shower games and no one would ever suspect that you have just downloaded from the Internet.

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Free printable baby shower games can be really useful. In fact, it is considered as the greatest ice breaker especially if the guests in the baby shower party do not know each other or are not acquainted with each other.

The bottom line is that the preference of whether to obtain free baby shower games or free printable baby shower games is actually dependent on the situation. This means that if there is no budget for the baby shower games, then, it would be better to acquire baby shower games that are given for free.

But if, there is a little budget even for the ink alone and the paper that will be used, then, it would be best if you will obtain free printable baby shower games.

Therefore, whatever you choose, the key point is that you have to use it in order to make the event livelier and more fun.

Invitations For Your Baby Shower

Use Your Home Computer To Make Your Invitations:

Computers can be a great help in cutting down on expenses of the party. Be it used for making baby shower games or invitations for all the invitees. Your computer comes with many programs that can be used to make attractive invitations.

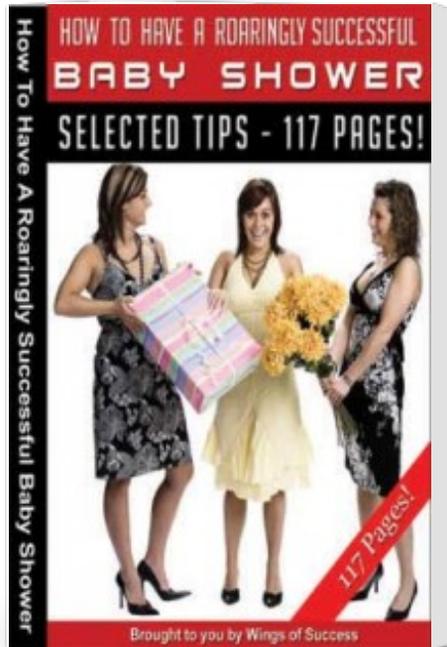
2 of these programs available on the computer are PowerPoint and Publisher. You could also visit many web sites to cut down on time and choose a free template of an invitation and customize it for your invitation cards.

You could also use a velum Overlay as a design for your baby shower invitation. First of all get yourself a style of paper that is really attractive and then find a matching ribbon. These are available at any stationery store. You will also need some bits of velum. On your PC compose the words you want to print on the invitation and print it onto the velum. Fix the velum to the front or the top of your craft paper and you will have a very attractive home made baby shower invitation.

A few more invitation ideas.

1. Perhaps the easiest invitation is the one available at the stationery store. However, there are other ways to go about acquiring your baby shower invitations.
2. You could alternatively order them from an online store or one in the marketplace that will customize your baby shower invitation.
3. Walk into a greeting card shop and use their computers available for the purpose to create your own invitation cards on their professional software and have professionally printed cards to your liking.
4. There are many online clip arts you can use to make attractive baby shower invitation cards. These are very attractive and can be customized as well.

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