



Awww Ralph's

Secrets For a Great Party

Welcome to the world of children's magic! My name is Ralph and my show name is Awww Ralph! I specialize in magic shows for birthday parties and other special events. Even adults can watch and enjoy my family oriented shows, especially if they are young at heart.

Being a **magician** I get to go to lots of birthday parties. At these parties I often see clever ideas that make parties fun. I have gathered the best of them here for your use. Read thru them and use the ones you like best.

RELAX! - Don't sweat the small stuff! Enjoy the party. And everyone else will enjoy it too.

Keep the food easy! For most children, pizza or hot dogs are best. They are easy for you too. Orange soda or Kool-Aid would be good for the drinks. Kids like simple!

- **Pizza** – Cut it into small pieces. The smaller children will make less of a mess and the older kids can brag about how many pieces they ate.
- **Cupcake Birthday** – One of the best kept party secrets is replacing the birthday cake with cupcakes. You can still sing Happy Birthday and blow out the candles, but the children will not have to wait for someone to cut the cake and pass it out.

Keep the kids busy! Party games and activities will burn off energy and keep the children focused on having fun. Start with something light, as the kids get to know each other and become more comfortable with their new surroundings. Remember, not all of the kids may know each other and doing something interesting but light will break the ice.

- **Coloring Pictures** – Provide crayons and pictures for children to color.
- **Balloon Relay Race!** - Blow up three balloons per child. Divide the kids into two teams. Put a chair or just a board at one end of the room or yard. Each child will run to that spot, sit on a balloon until it pops, and runs back to tag the next child. The first team to pop one balloon per child wins the race! Hand out prizes to the winners. If they like the game then have them play it again with the extra balloons.
- **The Treasure Hunt!** - Just like an Easter egg hunt. Hide things from a dollar store or a party store. If you have a mix of older and younger kids, have two hunts, one easier than the other. Both hunts can be at the same time in different parts of the yard or in different rooms.



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Magic Show – This is live theater created for your child. You can help make the most of this by keeping distractions to a minimum allowing Awww Ralph to create a magic world of enchantment.

- **Location** - Choose a place in your home that has few distractions. It is generally best to have the magician away from the front door, as latecomers can take away from the performance. If you think that your adult guests will not watch the show, have the show in a different location from the adults so the show does not disturb the adults talking.
- **Setup** - Keep the kids in a separate room while the magician sets up. Magic is a secret and allowing the kids to view the set-up will only take away from the fun.
- **Participation** - The kids are encouraged to make noise, stand up, wave their arms and come up to be volunteers.
- **Refreshments** – No food or drink during the show. Their enthusiasm and your carpet will suffer! **After the show** is usually the best time to serve cake, food, sing, etc.

Organization Tips for Parents – The party should be fun for both you and the children. Use these hints below to make the party as stress-free as possible for you and UNFORGETTABLE for your child.

- **Preparation** – Include the child in the party planning. Send invitations out with plenty of advance notice. Keep a checklist. Be sure to have plenty of film and batteries on hand.
- **Anticipation** – Talk to your children the night before the party, reminding them of the upcoming fun in store.
- **Identification** - Tie a bouquet of balloons on your mailbox, front porch, or apartment door so it's easy for your guests (not to mention the magician!) to find the party.
- **Post-game** – As the party begins to wind down, keep the children busy until their parents arrive. Ask them to help you clean up. They will love to help.

If you are interested in hiring entertainment, give me a call. I will be happy to talk with you about how I might help.

Call Ralph at (408) 688-7077

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Party Checklist

4 WEEKS BEFORE THE PARTY

- Sit down with your child and make a guest list.
- Choose a theme
- Decide on a venue and book it (if not home)
- Contact and book entertainment
- List all supplies needed
- Order party decorations and favors

2 WEEKS BEFORE THE PARTY

- Make or buy and send invitations
- Plan the party menu
- Start making party decorations and favors
- Order cake from bakery if you're not making your own
- Arrange for extra help

1 WEEK BEFORE THE PARTY

- Finish decorations and favors.
- Bake cake and freeze it, if making your own cake
- Make foods that can be prepared ahead of time and store in freezer
- Write out a final schedule of activities for the party

2-3 DAYS BEFORE THE PARTY

- Buy remaining food for the party.
- Buy film and/or videotape
- Check batteries for cameras
- Get an exact guest count. Call those who haven't responded

1 DAY BEFORE THE PARTY

- Finish decorating cake or pick up from bakery
- Child-proof and decorate party area.
- Prepare all "Do-Ahead" food
- Talk to the Birthday Child about how to behave at the party

THE DAY OF THE PARTY

- Prepare the rest of the food
- Decorate outside party area
- Practice with the Birthday Child about thanking the giver and not saying, "I already have that!" or "I don't like Scooby-Doo!"
- Mark the outside of the house or the party area with balloons or a sign
- Keep your schedule of party activities handy.