



INTRODUCTION AND PARTY INVITATIONS

Take Me Out to the Ball Game... so goes the famous song that everyone loves during those lazy, hazy days of summer taking in America's favorite pastime. Whether your child plays the game or simply loves to take in a ball game during the summer, a baseball party is a perfect theme for a hot summer's day.

This is a great party to host at an actual baseball game for the birthday child and his or her friends to enjoy. For a budget-friendly option, consider a minor league game. Whether it's a major or minor league game you take the kids out to enjoy, they are sure to have a blast.

If you are hosting this party at a baseball game, create **Baseball Ticket Invitations**. Make small ticket invitations using your favorite team colors and request that the guests bring their tickets to gain entrance to the party. On your ticket, write the date of your child's party as the ticket seat. As an example, Seat 6, Row 15, Section 09. The date of your party will be June 6, 2009.

Use thematic language for the kids to get into the spirit: *Take me out to the Ball Game...Take ____ (birthday child name) and ____ (party guest name) out to the game! Help this slugger celebrate his/her birthday!*

Alternatively, if you are holding a baseball party at a local park or in your own backyard, create **Baseball Invitations**. Using heavy cardstock in your team's colors, create two round circles and hole punch the top of the balls. Using a gold fastener, attach the two balls together and decorate the outer circle to look like a baseball and on the inside of the card on the second ball write your party details. Make sure to ask your birthday child to autograph these baseballs.

Remember to request that the party guests come dressed in their favorite team colors and to bring their baseball gear.

DECORATIONS

If you are hosting your party at a ball game, the stadium and the setting is the perfect



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décor for your party.

If you are hosting the party at a park or in your own backyard, here are decoration ideas to pull your own ball game party together:

Place balloons at the front entrance to the party and decorate the door in the favorite team colors welcoming the guests to the ball game party.

Decorate your party area, including your backyard, with balloons and streamers in your team's colors.

Place baseball pennants and posters around the party room.

Create a baseball diamond using carpet remnants and white felt bases for the kids to play the game on and to add a festive feel for the party.

Create a concession stand to serve favorite baseball foods on paper and plastic ware. For your party table, lay blankets on the ground or have several tables set up for the kids to enjoy their food. As party table centerpieces, take large bowls and fill with baseballs and round candies, like baseball gumballs. At each place setting, set water bottles for the kids to drink from and place whistles around the table as confetti along with baseball trading cards.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

When the guests arrive, provide them with caps and large T-shirts to wear during the party. If you plan on playing a game of baseball, hand out two different colors of caps and T-shirts to designate the two teams.

While the guests wait for everyone to arrive, provide them with fabric paint pens to decorate their caps and T-shirts. The kids can also take turns autographing each other's shirts as a great party favor.

Once everyone has arrived, play the following games:

Play **Blindfold Baseball**. Blindfold the kids, and then have them pin a baseball on the field. Give the kids different points for different plays. As an example, if a child pins his or her ball near first base give one point or third base give three points.

Play **Baseball-on-the-Spoon Relay**. Decorate ping-pong balls as baseballs and divide the kids into two teams. Have the players of both teams carry the ping-pong balls on the spoon to the opposite side of the party room, around a chair, and back to the starting line without dropping it. If a team member drops the baseball they must begin again. First team done wins!



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Send the kids to **Spring Training**. In order for the kids to get in shape before the game have them complete some warm-up drills — jumping jacks, pushups, sprinting, and throwing, batting, and catching balls.

Play **Weird Baseball**. Baseball without baseballs! Replace the baseballs with tennis balls, ping-pong balls, Nerf® balls, sponges, sock balls, soccer balls, and beach balls. Alternate the balls constantly so that everyone has to hit a different type of ball throughout the game.

Throw 'N' Catch. Ask the kids to form a circle and give each player a different ball. Kids must throw their balls across the circle to another guest while trying to catch a ball coming back.

Have a **Hey Batter, Batter Relay**. The kids must run to one end of the party area and put on a baseball shirt, helmet, glove, and shin guards. Then the kids on their team shout *Hey Batter Batter*. At that moment, the kid takes it off and runs back so the next teammate can do the same. First team done wins!

Play a game of **Baseball**.

PARTY MENU

At the concession stand that you set up to serve your food, provide the kids with lots of ball game favorites including:

- Hot dogs
- Burgers
- Peanuts
- Popcorn
- French fries
- Large pretzels with mustard
- Licorice whips
- Cracker Jack®
- Potato chips
- Nachos with cheese



For your party drinks, fill the kids' water bottles with Gatorade® and other sports drinks in favorite flavors.

Make **Kellogg's® Rice Krispies Treats® Baseballs**. Shape the Kellogg's® Rice Krispies Treats® into balls and serve with chocolate-covered pretzel bats.

Make a **Baseball Cake**. Mix a regular cake batter according to the package directions. Grease a 2 or 3 quart oven-proof bowl and pour in the batter and bake a little longer



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than the recommended baking time. Flip the cake onto a large platter. Sprinkle the platter with green-tinted coconut to form a playing field. Lastly, frost the cake white and use red licorice strings for baseball stitching.

PARTY FAVORS

Send the kids home with their T-shirts, baseball caps, and water bottles. Additionally, provide them with packs of baseball trading cards, bubblegum, and baseballs for added fun.

Remember to take pictures of the kids playing baseball and the wacky fun games in their baseball outfits. Send the pictures to your party guests in baseball thank you notes.



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