



INTRODUCTION AND PARTY INVITATIONS

Everybody loves *Sesame Street*® and especially Elmo. Elmo lives on *Sesame Street*. You can visit him and his goldfish, Dorothy, on *Sesame Street's Elmo's World*. An Elmo-themed party, with lots of decorations and fun cool games and activities, will be a big hit!

Make fun party invitations:

Option 1: Cut out a piece of colorful cardstock, fold it in half and glue a picture of your child holding his/her favorite Elmo toy on the front cover. Inside the card, write your party details (see below for examples). Have your child decorate colorful envelopes with fun drawings, stickers and/or images of Elmo.

Option 2: Create an Elmo face invitation by cutting a circle from red construction paper. Glue on two circles for the eyes. Cut and glue two small black circles for the pupils of the eyes and an orange oval for the nose. Write the party details on the back of the card.

Use thematic language in your invitations:

Elmo's friend ____ is turning ____! Come to ____'s World to celebrate!
____ is Turning 2!

DECORATIONS

Make a poster board sign for the front door that greets guests as they arrive: *Guess what Elmo is thinking about today? ____'s Birthday! Come in and join the fun!*

Place Elmo facts all over the party walls so the kids can learn more about their favorite character:

First Appearance on *Sesame Street*: 1984
Family: Dad Louie; Mom Mae; Sister Daisy
Favorite Food: Pistachio Ice Cream (but Elmo knows it's a sometimes food)
Favorite Fruit: Bananas
Best Friends: Big Bird and Grover



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Age: 3-1/2 years
 Birthday: February 3rd
 Pet: Goldfish Dorothy
 Dislikes: Brussels Sprouts
 Full Name: Elmo Monster
 Scientific Name: Furrius Childus

Use Elmo foil balloons to mark the party spot by hanging them around the front of your home.

Cover the party table with a customized Elmo table cover and ensure each place setting has an Elmo plate, napkin, cup and utensils. Alternatively, use the primary colors red, yellow, and blue.

Add any Elmo or other *Sesame Street* toys your child may have to the table as a centerpiece. Use fun *Sesame Street* stickers as table confetti.

Alternatively, place a Dorothy the Goldfish bowl in the center of the table.

Attach a few Elmo foil balloons to the birthday kid's special birthday chair.

For a table centerpiece, cut several pieces of curling ribbon one to two feet long. Curl the ribbon by pulling it between your thumb and the blade of scissors. Spread the curls on your table.

Hang foil balloons in bunches for best effect by tying a colorful ribbon around the strings of several balloons, so they hang together.

If you have an Elmo plush, or other fun *Sesame Street* plush, tie some of the balloons to the character's hand, and put a party hat on the stuffed character.

Attach Elmo crepe streamers to a light fixture in the center of the party table to add to the festive environment.

Create multicolor streamers by placing two different colored streamers back-to-back and twisting them (try orange and red for Elmo).

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

When the party guests arrive, provide them with small jars of red Play-Doh® so that they can sculpt their own mini Elmo characters. These can be taken home as a party favor.

Fill a clear glass cookie jar with small bags of cookies, and have each party guest guess the number of cookies. The one with the closest guess wins a prize and each guest



receives a bag of cookies.

The Letter Game. Split the children into two teams with one adult supervisor per team. Explain that each team has five minutes to come up with as many words as they can think of that begin with the same letter as the birthday child's first name.

Oscar the Grouch Garbage Toss. Have the party guests toss balls of junk mail into Oscar's garbage can, an empty trashcan. To add structure to this game, try having each child toss junk from several set distances starting with right next to the garbage can, and ending eight feet away.

Pin the Nose on Elmo (also can be purchased as an existing party game). You will need: Elmo poster or construction paper cutout, orange construction paper, scissors, tape or spray glue, and a blindfold. Cut the construction paper into round nose shapes and add the initials of each party guest. Place tape, or spray glue on the noses so they stick. (If using spray glue, let them dry sticky side up).

Fill Dorothy's New Goldfish Bowl (best played outdoors). Fill a bucket or tub with water. Form two teams (Team A and Team B). Line up Team A between the water-filled bucket/tub and the empty goldfish bowl. Have team members fill up small paper cups of water, pass them down the line, and dump them into the goldfish bowl. Time how long it takes to fill the bowl. Repeat the activity with Team B. Then mix up the team members to create new teams and play.

Ha, Ha, Ha! Have all party guests form a circle. Explain that the object of the game is to keep a straight face while others try to make you laugh. One guest begins by saying, "Ha." The next guest says, "Ha, Ha," followed by the next guest who says, "Ha, Ha, Ha," and so on around the circle with each guest adding a "Ha" to the string. Each guest must pronounce the "Ha's" as seriously as they can and avoid laughter as long as possible. Any guest who makes a mistake or laughs must drop out of the circle. However, he or she then gets to try to make the remaining guests laugh in any way (except by touching them or talking). The most serious guest (the one who keeps a straight face the longest) wins the game.

Abby, Abby, Elmo! This game is based on the traditional "Duck, Duck, Goose!" game, but instead of a goose chasing a duck, Elmo chases Abby Cadabby.

Name that Smell. Place smelly items, like cinnamon and garlic, into paper bags. Tie the bags shut with curling ribbon and poke a small hole in the top of each bag. Have the children sit in a circle and pass the bags around to sniff and guess the contents. After everyone has had a chance to sniff each bag, untie the ribbons, and open them to reveal the contents.

Follow Elmo. Before the party, get some music ready (any children's music will work, but *Sesame Street* music is best). Start with the birthday child and have all the other



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party guests line up behind him/her. The leader makes all sorts of fun creative moves, and the rest of the line follows. If the leader needs some help, you can suggest hopping, jumping, twirling, and rolling on the ground. Pick a new leader every few minutes. Play until everyone has had a turn.

PARTY MENU

One of Elmo's favorite foods is pizza. Make mini-pizzas using English muffins. Prepare the pizzas with sauce and cheese on them. Offer a few toppings that the children can add. Place the pizzas into the oven and have the kids do some party activities until baking is finished.

Serve stromboli sandwiches with alphabet soup.

Red Monster Sugar Cookies. Bake the birthday child's favorite cookies; only try doubling the size of each cookie to make them *monster-sized*. Make up regular frosting; add some red food coloring, and plenty of shredded coconut to it for that furry monster look.

Character Cupcakes. Decorate cupcakes with a red sprinkle Elmo face, an orange jellybean nose, and white mini-marshmallow eyes. Decorate other cupcakes with a fish-shaped cracker, for Elmo's pet Dorothy, and blue sprinkles for water.

Red Monster Cake. Frost an oval cake red. Frost two cupcakes white and the third orange. Slice the tops of the cupcakes off, and place them atop the oval cake as white eyes and an orange nose. Use the black licorice for a smile and pupils.

Elmo Face Cake. Using an Elmo face shaped cake pan, prepare a cake mix according to package directions. Decorate a really cool Elmo cake!

Remember to serve your cake with Elmo's favorite pistachio ice cream!

PARTY FAVORS

Prepare a loot bag for each child to be given out at the end of the party as a remembrance of the day. Fill each bag with healthy treats, crayons, blowouts, or play clay.

For an additional activity, have guests decorate their own party bags at the start of the party with fun *Sesame Street* stickers and crayons.

Alternatively, send the kids home with a large Elmo cookie placed into colorful Saran™ Wrap and tied off with a bright ribbon.

Make sure to send a warm Elmo thank you to all of your guests.



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