

Behind the Bash: It's All in the Bag

Written by Written by: Susie Tyler-Alofs

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Attention moms and dads: This simple birthday party sleepover will convince others that you've hired a party planner. Feel free to use these tips for summer holiday celebrations and end-of-the-school-year parties.



You've Got Mail This party's invitation was included in a beautifully packaged overnight bag. Simply print the details of the sleepover party on a coordinating layered tag and tie to a tote bag. Place the bag in a shipping box and wrap with coordinating wrapping paper. Print the address and the return address on a standard sheet of paper. Tape on box, add stamps and mail. Each child will receive a gift-wrapped invite. (And yes, the postal service will ship a gift-wrapped box if it is labeled and addressed properly.) Be sure to keep all your printed pieces in the same color scheme and the same font to ensure a seamless look.



Decked Out The easy décor is designed for a busy mom on-the-go. Etsy.com has self-printable party labels, which is what we used. Choose a design that coordinates with your sleepover bag. (These printables may include bottled water labels, banners, invites, menus and more.) Glue ribbon, streamers or a printable from Etsy.com around the edge of plain clear vases you already have around the home. Fill these vases with color-coordinated candy and you have yourself a candy bar. Party stores now sell color-coordinated bags of candy, and Trader Joe's snacks are delicious, gourmetlike and inexpensive.



Girls Just Wanna Have Fun The birthday girl and party guests were picked up in a limo and taken to a casual lunch and then to Narcisse Champagne & Tea Lounge for High Tea. Narcisse served a delicious cookie-and-mint-ice-cream combo with the tea. This was intentionally color-coordinated. The girls also decorated cupcakes, swam, lit sparklers, enjoyed a gorgeous dessert by Tammie Coe Cakes and, of course, stayed up way too late.



All You Need is Love To honor her friends, the birthday girl handed each guest a "love" necklace from Forever 21 and announced what she cherished about each girl.

PARTY PROS

Cake: Tammie Coe Cakes, www.tammiecoecakes.com.

High Tea: Narcisse Champagne & Tea Lounge, www.narcisselounge.com.

Invitation: Paper Place, 480.941.2858. Photography: Erica Velasco, www.ericavelasco.com.

Printable Party Decorations: Modern Beautiful, KellyandJen@ModernBeautiful.com.

Sparkler Tags: Lollipops & Pussycats, www.etsy.com/shop/LollipopsAndPussycat.

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