

Party time!

How to throw a coronavirus lockdown birthday party your child will never forget.

Where to hold it?

Government restrictions mean that birthday parties should take place at home but this doesn't mean all your friends and family can't still be there (virtually). There are a number of platforms you can use; FaceTime, WhatsApp, Google Hangouts and Zoom.

Once you have decided be sure to have a test run to make sure you iron out any technical difficulties. You want your party to run as smoothly as possible.

Plan your guest list

Consider the age and needs of your guests when planning who to invite. For young children, you may find limiting it to a few close friends is much more manageable. For older children you might want to invite their whole class.

Send an invite

Make sure your guests know the party is on by sending them an [invite](#). Set time, theme, platform and login details in advance.

Timings

Keep the party short, thirty minutes should be plenty of time. Any more than that will most likely contribute to distracted kids and possibly meltdowns. Remember the kids will be in front of the computer, so for toddlers and younger children especially, the key is keeping it short and entertaining.

Have a beginning, middle and end; put some thought into the structure. To kick off your party give your birthday boy or girl the chance to say hello to all of their guests. Parents can then let guests know what to expect.

Decorations

Create a party atmosphere with plenty of balloons, bunting and our fabulous [party hats](#). Decorate your child's chair and download this [Zoom background](#) so there is no mistaking who's birthday it is.

Games

Here are some of our favourites:

- charades – act out different actions or scenes and let everyone take a turn guessing
- freeze dance – turn up the music and when the music stops they have to freeze, who will be the last one standing?
- Simon says – children love this but be warned this could get very silly!
- scavenger hunt – the great thing about a scavenger hunt is it doesn't take too much work and can be enjoyed inside or outside. Some ideas include; find something beginning with C, find something to sit on, find something that's squishy, find something that smells
- [mad libs](#) don't forget to make sure everyone gets a turn
- host a [quiz](#).

Celebrate with cake!

You can't have a birthday party without cakes! Celebrate with a slice of cake or in this case any snacks your guests have to hand and want to enjoy together. We have put together some scrumptious recipes for you to try out. ([fairy cakes recipe](#)) ([Rice Krispie cakes recipe](#))

Pat yourself on the back

Their birthday might not be quite what your or they had in mind but it will be one to remember!