



## August 2017 - Organizing a Baby Shower

Planning for the arrival of a new baby is an exciting time in your life. Of course, it brings great happiness, along with awesome responsibilities, usually for the rest of your life.

But for now, let's enjoy the party — and do the party right! Here are a few things to remember when planning a baby shower, for yourself or usually done by and with friends:

**ONE: You need to choose a date, time and place** for the shower, of course. Often, a restaurant's special room or church hall relieves the double burden of keeping your own house "clean enough for guests" while you prepare for the fun. Even paying a small rental fee is sometimes preferable to wondering if Aunt Gladys will find dust on one of your living room shelves.

**TWO: Now's the time to make choices**. What is your budget? Will you have a theme? How many guests should attend? Will couples or mostly ladies only be invited? What kind of food and drink will you serve? Do you want to create displays welcoming the guests and the baby?

**THREE: Complete your party planning**. Think of a few games to play. We all like to share stories and laugh, so allow ample time for that. Now, the big rage is to have a Reveal Party where couples reveal the sex of their child at a shower or party. Sometimes people will have a cake with the different color or even throw a dart at a balloon to make special announcements.

**FOUR: Gift registry for needed items**. Moms-to-be often appreciate registering at stores such as Babies 'R Us, Target, Walmart and other favorite places. Some may even provide a "to do" checklist to help you manage the shower.

**FIVE: Larger, special gifts**. It's wise to have a conversation with your parents and in-laws to see if they wish to give a larger gift. You might consider having them purchase a stroller, crib, dresser or changing table. Or they might wish to provide a gift certificate toward something special.

**SIX: Get the party under control**. Family members and friends are often happy to prepare or serve the food, organize the games and keep track of who gave what gifts, to make "thank you" note writing easier later. Arranging for people to help you take the gifts back to your home is a good idea, too. Often, not everything fits into your car.

**SEVEN: Now relax!** The baby will soon arrive and you will probably have a lot of items to help you get started right. You may want to wash a few of the items before your infant wears them.

Also don't wait until the last minute to arrange his or her bedroom as well. Just remember the little one can arrive any time! Maybe get the nursery ready at six to seven months, when you have more mobility. Give your new baby a great start by being well organized.

Your local professional organizer,

Betty Huotari

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