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BABY SHOWER BASICS

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Who throws the shower?

What do you do at a shower?

When should I have it?

Who gets invited?

What if the baby comes early, before the shower?

Is it appropriate to throw a shower if this is not the couple's first child?

RELAX . . .

Take it easy. After reading this book, you'll have these answers and a whole lot more - **you'll be well on your way to throwing a great Baby Shower!**

ABOUT THE BABY SHOWER



Proper etiquette is very specific about the Baby Shower - never should the mother-to-be's family throw the shower, lest people think they were asking for gifts. **Traditionally, a close female friend throws the Baby Shower and invites all the women close to the mother-to-be,** to shower her with gifts and well wishes for the coming baby.

While this is still the idea, the etiquette has changed from generation to generation. Now, anyone can throw the Baby Shower and it's

not just for the women! **Men are attending showers, even having their own.** It's all about celebrating a new life, and welcoming a new baby to the world. And all babies, not just the couple's first child, are a cause for celebration.

GUEST LIST



Skipping the surprise shower can really ease the planning of any Baby Shower. If it's not a surprise, **the parents-to-be can help out with the guest list and help you avoid scheduling conflicts.** Grandma and Grandpa may not be the guests of honor, but you don't want to find out too late that the most important guests can't attend.

So check with the parents-to-be to make sure you haven't left out anyone who should be included, and **lets get this party started!**

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION



Once you have a general idea of the number of guests, you'll want to **start thinking about where to have the Baby Shower**. You can host at your own home, reserve tables at your favorite restaurant, rent a reception hall, picnic at a park if you'll be including children, or if this is a small group of female friends, why not make it a day at the spa with a catered lunch?

If you're planning to rent or reserve space for the Shower, **check on these details when looking around:**

- How many guests will this location hold?
- Is it available on your chosen date?
- Can you decorate prior to the shower?
- What is the cost? What does it include?
- Who is responsible for clean up?

DATE & TIME



It's always a good idea to schedule the **Baby Shower about two to three months in advance of mom's due date.** Unless, of course, you are having the shower after the baby is born. "Hello World, Here I Am" Showers are a popular way to ensure everyone gets to see the new baby, and you'll want to wait at least a month after the baby is born for this one.

The time of day to host the shower is personal preference, and can be used to determine appropriate food and drink. If you just don't know, **ask the mother-to-be what part of the**

**day she usually feels her best, and go from
there.**

THEME OR NO THEME?



A theme can serve as inspiration for decorations and games, even the invitations, favors, and nametags. It makes planning and preparation simpler and guests will enjoy the instant gift ideas that come with a theme. Go to [the BabyShowerGamesatoz](http://theBabyShowerGamesatoz.com) website for Baby Shower themes complete with games!

GAMES



About three games for a two-hour shower are just right. Don't overwhelm your guests with activities, remember everyone wants to see the parents-to-be, and not just in the race to the finish line. You want time to open presents, possibly eat some munchies, and just talk about the good times with your friends and family.

Baby Shower games can be found in books, or online. Don't forget to check out [the BabyShowerGamesatoz](#) website for all your Baby Shower games.

INVITATIONS



Finalize that guest list because you want to **send the invitations at least three weeks in advance**, allowing time for the guests to clear their schedules and find that **'perfect'** gift.

Don't forget to include special instructions in the invitations. Many games, and even some themes, require guests to bring items to the shower and you'll want to let them know inside their invitation.

FOOD & DRINK



Finger foods set around the room work great and encourage guests to mingle. If you don't want to prepare the food yourself, many bakers or grocers make deli trays of vegetables, fruit, or meats and cheeses. They're arranged beautifully for any occasion and can be a life-saver, as well as a time-saver.

When choosing drinks to serve, remember to include non-alcoholic and decaffeinated alternatives.

HOSTING



Designate an assistant to help you.

Coordinating is the easy part, but you probably don't want to do everything by yourself on the big day. Depending on the number of guests, it's easy to get overwhelmed and miss some of those small details that mean so much.

With all your planning, don't forget a gift for the parents-to-be. Maybe your gift to the parents-to-be will be the Baby Shower itself, but if you're looking great gift ideas, try a customized Baby Gift Basket or music and

books for baby's first years, including "What to Expect the First Year".



Don't lose sight of what this day is all about...A CELEBRATION! So remember to check [the BabyShowerGamesatoz](http://theBabyShowerGamesatoz.com) website for all your Baby Shower entertainment needs, and relax and have fun with your planning and hosting.

Happy Baby Showering!