A Quick And Easy Guide To Baby Showers!

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INTRODUCTION

How wonderful! One of your best friends in the whole wide world has just announced that she's pregnant. Naturally, you're delighted, and can't hold back your tears of joy. It's hard to imagine that, in just a matter of time, your special friend is going to be a mother (maybe even for the second or third time...or more!).

As you let the amazing news sink in, your friend is envisioning the journey that will usher in a new life into the world: the gynecologist visits, the morning sickness, the ultrasound testing, the roller coaster of emotions that will eventually culminate in an experience that defies description.

Indeed, despite the frequency of births – tens of thousands a day, all across the world – they remain nothing short of miraculous. It's not hard to imagine, therefore, that your friend is reflecting on issues that are truly hard to put into words.

Your world, however, is rather more pragmatic. You're thinking of the baby shower; or rather, you're thinking that you might not know enough about planning and managing a baby shower. And that has you worried.

Well, worry no more! In your hands (or on your screen) is

The Quick and Easy Guide to Baby Showers. Within the following pages, you'll learn everything that you need to know to throw a perfect baby shower. You'll learn about the elements of:

Planning a Baby Shower from the Ground Up

Managing a Baby Shower from Start to End

Other Tips, Strategies, and Suggestions

Don't worry if you've never organized a baby shower before. And worry even less if, in the past, you've tried to organize a baby shower but bumped into some obstacles along the way. This book is designed to be easy, practical, and fun. In fact, if you aren't careful, you may just become a baby shower specialist, with people calling you up and asking you for your advice and insights. Now would that be fun?

As you make your way through this book, bear in mind that the suggestions in here are meant to be applied – and they do work – but there's always an element of uniqueness to every baby shower.

So instead of putting together a baby shower in the way you might put together a recipe – adding ingredients exactly as they're listed and ending up with a predictably tasty dish – you're gently advised to approach your baby shower project

a little differently. Use the advice in here as a guide for creating a magical day for the mother-to-be, and the caring people who attend the baby shower.

Some of the ideas in here you'll want to take to the bank; others might not fit with what you're trying to do, or what can be done (such as some of the baby shower games we talk about). Don't worry if you apply only some of what you read here.

Use your common sense, and remember: baby showers are supposed to be fun and special events. They aren't meant to be stressful, and the last person who should feel overwhelmed is you.

Now that you have this book, pulling together an excellent and memorable baby shower might be the easiest thing you do all year (or course, you don't have to tell people it was so easy...©).

PART 1: PLANNING THE SHOWER

Who'll Throw the Shower?

There's an ongoing debate – that can actually become quite emotional and vocal – that tried to determine whether or not a relative should throw the baby shower. Traditionally, the view has been that a relative should not throw a baby shower, because it can appear that the relative is requesting gifts. Yet traditions change, and there are times when a sibling, or a cousin, or an aunt might be the ideal and somewhat convenient choice.

So what should you do? To answer this, we can respond with the best, and sometimes most unsatisfying answer of them all: it depends.

Sorry, but it really does depend. If you hail from a rather traditional or conventional background, it may be wise to see that a non-relative is in charge of the baby shower. In addition, even if you, personally, are comfortable with a relative throwing the baby shower, some of your guests – who may be less comfortable with it than you – may object (or just whisper about it behind your back).

Use your judgment here. Perhaps the most practical advice is this: if you can conveniently and pleasantly not have a relative run things, then that will likely be the best route to go. However, if that's just not possible, plausible, or preferred, then don't feel like you're someone from outer space because you're related to the mother-to-be. More and more people are breaking with tradition; especially since they feel that the perception of a relative "asking for gifts" arguably doesn't exist anymore.

Gifts (which we talk about further on in this book) are rather integral to baby showers; it's quite hard to imagine one without gifts. Since that is the case, whether a relative requests them from those attending the baby shower, or a non-relative requests them, arguably isn't important to those attending. They're likely focused on what the baby shower should focus on: the mother-to-be, and a wonderful opportunity to share in her joy.

Now, there's an amusing (at least from our current detached perspective) on this that you should know about. Some people may not want to run the baby shower. It's assumed that if you're reading this, that you're quite happy with the assignment, and you'd like to do some quality – and easy! – research so that everything goes off without a hitch.

Yet if you aren't the one whose holding the baby shower, but perhaps the mother-to-be who is about to hand over this book to a relative or friend who will hold the shower, then we should take a little time-out to talk about something important.

A baby shower is a wonderful event that is filled with laughter, love, and perhaps a few tears (of happiness). Yet putting one together can require an investment of time. Not a lot of time; not compared to, say, planning a wedding or for some people, planning a vacation.

Yet it's fair to simply note that putting together a baby shower does require some focus, and some time. If you're about to nominate someone to take on this task, then please bear this in mind; that person should understand that they'll need to do a little bit of work (but it's fun work, of course).

And if you've been asked to put together a baby shower – or if it's just been assumed that you'll do it – and you're a little worried about your own lack of time available, then don't worry. This book will help you immensely. Furthermore, nothing is stopping you from recruiting a deputy or two to help you with the details, such as preparing food, refreshments, and helping with decorations and games.

When Should the Shower Happen?

This is an important question to ask, and of course, to answer. And as usual, there are a few different viewpoints on when to hold the baby shower. Fortunately, however, these views aren't as debatable as they sometimes are when it comes to whether a relative or non-relative should hold the baby shower (as we discussed above). So don't worry;

this is a rather easy and straightforward challenge to solve.

Now, the real problem here is simply that there isn't a clear answer to the question: when should the shower happen? The answer to this will almost always depend on factors that are specific to the mother-to-be, the guests, and other issues.

So rather than providing a "one-size-fits-all" answer here – which is something that we can't do without knowing the details of your particular baby shower – let's just look at the variables. Once you know these, you'll easily be able to determine when the baby shower should be held.

The Mother-to-Be

Let's start with mother-to-be. She may have a preference about when the shower should be held; and this preference should be heeded. The father-to-be might also provide input here, which is wonderful and should be part of the overall decision-making process (we take a closer look at "couples" baby-showers later on in this book).

What kinds of things might influence a mother-to-be's preference on when the shower should be held? Some of them prefer to have the shower when they're showing; they may feel that there's something more appropriate (for lack of a better word) about holding a shower when people can

actually see that a baby is on the way.

In practical terms, this means that a shower might be held well into the second trimester, or into the third.

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