



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 our [Theme Library](#) for some fun new Baby Shower themes - complete with game ideas!

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 should be the fun part of planning your Shower, so don't wait until last minute to think about them! Better yet, find one of the guests who would like to be the game coordinator and work with her to pick out some fun games that go along with your theme. Here are some game selections that are guaranteed fun for any Baby Shower:

Ice-Breaker - String Talk

Not your ordinary string game! Ask your guests to take as much string as they think they'll need...but don't tell them what it's for!

They'll take plenty because they think it's the classic "*Measure Mommy's Tummy*" game – but boy do you have a surprise for them when they find out they have to tell the group about themselves until they completely wrap the length of the string around their finger!

First Born

Whose baby will be First Born? Freeze a small plastic baby in an ice cube the night before. At the Baby Shower, place one ice cube in a cup for each guest. During the Shower, the first guest whose baby floats in the melted ice is the First Born!

Who Knows Mommy?

Who Knows Daddy?

So you think you know Mom the best? Well, you might be surprised at who really knows Mom-to-be the best! Sometimes a female friend may know more than close family members. Test your guests' knowledge about the mother-to-be by playing 20 Questions. Ask questions about Mom's due date, her age, and the nursery theme. The guest with the most correct answers, wins.

Of course this can be played with the Dad-to-be, too! If Dad's at the Shower, don't leave him out, ask 20 questions about Dad too!

* These games are available on our website, all you have to do is [Click, Print & Play](#).

Gift Bingo

You've never seen so many guests happy to watch mom unwrap baby bottles until you've played Gift Bingo!

Keep your guests entertained while the parents-to-be are opening gifts using our pre-filled Click, Print & Play Gift Bingo game cards. Guests mark off their squares if they spot that gift being opened – and the first one with five in a row, up, down, or diagonal shouts Bingo! – they've won!

We have tons more games on our website – over 200 of them! So don't forget to check out BabyShowerGamesAtoZ.com 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 Basket](#), [Diaper Cake](#) or something just plain adorable from [Baby Gift Idea](#).

Don't lose sight of what this day is all about...A CELEBRATION! So remember to relax and have fun with your planning and hosting – not to mention checking out BabyShowerGamesAtoZ.com ...

...because the Baby Shower Games should be the fun part of planning a Shower!

Happy Baby Showering!