

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.

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