

### ■ ORDER AHEAD (5-7 DAYS BEFORE)

- Decorations — order early, shipping happens
- Balloons — order a few extra. They pop.
- Cake or cupcakes — confirm order + pickup time
- Party favors and goodie bags
- Any outfits or special birthday gear

*As packages arrive, store them in one dedicated spot. Staying organized now saves real stress later.*

### ■ DAY BEFORE

- Confirm grocery order or pick up food
- Charge bluetooth speakers or devices
- Unpack everything and organize by category
- Fill treat bags or favor packs
- Confirm headcount one last time

*The morning might be chaotic — have a plan. Think through setup, who's with the kids, and start decorating if it makes sense.*

### ■ DAY OF

- Decorate — this is the fun part
- Set up the food and drink station
- Make sure the birthday kid is occupied
- Set out food and snacks
- Designate a drop zone for gifts

*You used Confetti. It's going to be great. Now get in there and make a memory.*

### ■ You've Got This. And Backup.

*A few ways to let people in — if you want to.*

- ◆ **You'll probably do most of it. That's okay.**
- ◆ **Let someone bring something**
- ◆ **Hand off something to someone you trust**
- ◆ **Take people up on "let me know if you need anything"**
- ◆ **Older kids are incredible helpers**

*Good hosting means letting people in. You're still running the show.*

### ■ A Little Something for the Parents

*Thoughtful touches — big difference.*

- ◆ **A drinks-and-snacks corner just for adults**
- ◆ **Leave a polaroid or disposable camera out**
- ◆ **A playlist that isn't only kids' music**
- ◆ **A warm "here's where everything is" on arrival**
- ◆ **Something for them to do with the kids**

*Not every parent stays — and that's totally fine. A little thoughtfulness goes a long way for the ones who do.*