PARTY DAY CHEAT SHEET

The 2-hour kids' party, *minute by minute*

Built for ages 4 to 7. For ages 2 to 3, cut it to 90 minutes and make it mostly free play.

0:00 — **Free play.** Something out and ready before the doorbell.
Bubbles, chalk, magnetic tiles. It's also your buffer for late arrivals.

0:20 — **One big activity.** No elimination games.
A treasure hunt, a piñata, parachute games or freeze dance. One thing, done well.

0:50 — **Wind-down** and hand washing.
Ten calm minutes before food: a story, water, a second round of bubbles.

1:00 — **Food, then cake** right after.
Keep the food simple: fruit, crackers, cheese, pizza.

1:25 — **Second free play.** Start nothing new.
Kids burn off the sugar; parents finally talk to each other.

1:50 — **Favors at the door.**
Handing them out at the exit is the signal the party's over.

After — **Open presents** with just the family.
The birthday kid notices each gift, and you know who gave what for thank-you notes.

BACK-POCKET GAME

Activity ran short? Freeze dance, Simon says, or a hunt for things already in the room: something blue, something soft, something with wheels.

ONE KID WON'T JOIN IN

Don't coax. Give them a job: hand out the hunt bags, hold the bubble wand, be the DJ.

BIG GUEST LIST (15 OR MORE)

Add a second adult whose only job is the activity, and serve the food in two waves.

Guest list, RSVPs and a gift list in one free link
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