

Fun and Games

Meeting your neighbors, eating and having FUN are essential to any good block party. This section gives you several tips for creating that one and only block party spirit.

Name tags. When neighbors arrive, have them fill out nametags. Name tags help to "break the ice" and save folks from some potentially embarrassing situations.

Don't forget the kids. If you have families with children on your block, then activities are a must! Ask the bigger kids to organize the games. They are usually looking for something to do. Younger children love to be included in games with the older kids. Bubbles, balloons, chalk and balls always come in handy.

Party Games - Try these games to liven up a party. We guarantee some laughs and a few memorable moments!

1. Koosh Ball Toss - Have participants stand in a circle and explain that you are going to toss the ball across to someone. All they need to do is remember who threw it to them and whom they threw it to. Remind them to toss it so it is easy to catch, but catching is not important. Go around the circle until everyone has gotten it once. You can have them say the name of the person they're throwing it to if people are still learning names. The second time around, go in the same pattern but a little more quickly.
After it has gone around about one-and-a-half times, introduce a second Koosh ball, then a third. After a few times, take back each Koosh ball as it comes to you. A variation can be to allow people to move around in the circle, so that it becomes more difficult to know where the ball may be coming from and where you need to throw it.
2. Silent Line Up - Ask participants to line up according to their birth dates. They are to do this without any speaking or mouthing of words. Have them recite out loud after everyone is lined up to verify they got it correct. Variations may include lining up by middle name, favorite ice cream or state where born.
3. Block Party Balloon Relay - You will need 2 large plastic trash bags filled with inflated balloons (use different colors for each team). Divide into two teams. Pick a starting point and a turn-around point. Put a chair at the turn-around point. Have each team form a line behind the starting line. Give each team a bag of balloons. At the signal, one person from each team takes a balloon from the bag and moves as quickly as possible to the chair. The player then sits on the balloon and bursts it. Run back to the next player in line and tag them. This continues until each player on the team has done the same as the first player. The first team to finish wins!