

new shower ideas

Our friend Deborah Elias, from Elias Events in Houston, shares her best party ideas.

when to throw it

The best time for a baby shower is when you're in your third trimester. "[The guest of honor] is so cute when she's got the big baby bump," says Elias. But not so big you're uncomfortable! And you'll know the sex of your baby (if you're finding out) by then, so that may inspire your theme, not to mention help gift givers zero in on some key colors.

it's all about theme

A pulled-together fete starts with a motif. Elias suggests a Noah's Ark-inspired animal theme for a boy's shower. Or keep it gender-neutral and modern with color-blocked décor. For the retro gal, a polka-dot baby shower is "spot-on." And if you're a glamorous mom-to-be (or hoping for a girlie girl!), play up the sparkle and host a "Baby Bling" shower with shiny pacifier ring favors!

instant pick-me-up

Worried you'll be totally exhausted? Get a boost by sipping this fun punch: Mix orange sherbet and ginger ale (sugar is an instant pick-me-up—as long as you don't overdo it!).

"My mom used to make this for me," says Elias. "And now I request it for every shower." Not only is it a tasty drink, but if you serve it in a fun glass or bowl, the orange punch also becomes a bright part of your décor.

games that are actually fun

Games are a great way to get guests interacting and can help break the ice. As people enter the party, hand them an extra-large baby safety pin and let them know the only rule: They can't say the word "baby." This is really hard at a shower! If you hear another guest say it, you take their pin. The guest with the most pins at the end wins!

Another favorite is "What's in the Diaper Bag?" Fill a diaper bag with baby gear like a rattle, socks and even a peepee teepee. Then have each guest reach in without looking and write down what they think they're touching. The winner is the one who gets the most items right. We can't wait to play!

More ideas at TheBump.com/shower

