

Tips for Hosting a Safe Party

Planning the Party

1. Secure chaperones. We recommend one adult chaperone for every ten teenagers.
2. Ask your child for the "guest list." Call children's parents whom you do not know and introduce yourself. Share your expectations about the party.
3. Share your rules and expectations for behavior with your child before he/she distributes invitations.
4. Do not post invitations to parties on the internet.
5. Ask your child to share the guest list with you. If there are children or parents with whom you have had concerns before, share these with your child.
6. Make the consequences for misbehavior clear to your child. For example, you will phone the parents of any child who does not adhere to the behavioral standards that you have set for your home.
7. Do not have alcohol, drugs (prescription or otherwise), or tobacco visible in any way, shape, or form. Make sure that none of these substances are accessible.

Please Remember: By Montgomery County law, parents can be held responsible and may be subject to heavy fines if there is any underage drinking on their premises.

8. Set a time-frame for the party.

During the Party

1. Use one entrance/exit only and make sure that the parent host/hostess is standing at that entrance to welcome and greet visitors. Station chaperones at other possible entrances to the home to make sure that no one enters or exits from those areas.
2. Upon entry, request that guests leave bags, jackets, and coats in an area close to the main entrance that you have designated as the cloakroom. Do not allow children to bring their own cans and bottles of soda or water into the party.
3. Have one or two parent chaperones circulate through the party as they would their own. Re-stock the chip bowl, re-fill sodas, etc....if parents suspect drug or alcohol use, talk with that child and call his/her parents.
4. Have a conversation with each child as he/she leaves. "Did you have a nice time" is always a good thing to ask a departing guest. Again, if you suspect substance abuse, call their parents and do not permit them to leave. If they insist on leaving, call their parents and advise them to call their child on his/her cell phone.
5. When party-goers leave the home, they should not be permitted to re-enter the party. This sounds nasty but it helps a lot!