# Birthday Party Checklist for a 2-Year-Old Boy

Two is the age of running, climbing and saying “no” with enormous confidence. A two-year-old's party works best when it's short, simple and built around play. This guide is for the parent planning it, with naps, snacks and a few small friends in mind.

👶 Age 2 | 📍 Woking | ⏱️ 60-90 minutes | ✅ Tick-off checklist

Updated October 2026. Prices and details were read from each business's own website on 24 October 2026. Always confirm before you book.

PICTURE THIS

A Saturday afternoon in a Woking soft play. Six toddlers, six parents, and a ball pit that has swallowed at least two socks. The birthday boy has discovered that the slide is the best thing that has ever happened to him and sees no reason to stop for cake. A dad is quietly counting heads. Somebody's little sister is asleep in a buggy. At two, a party is mostly about running, sliding and being cheered for it, and that's enough.

START HERE

## What's different about a 2-year-old's party

*At two, a party is mostly running, sliding and being cheered for it.*

Two is a lovely age for a first “proper” party, as long as you keep it short and simple. Two-year-olds love music, bubbles and space to move, but they tire quickly and aren't ready for games with rules.

- **Keep it under 90 minutes.** HealthyChildren.org, from the American Academy of Pediatrics, suggests keeping parties for toddlers under 90 minutes and being mindful of nap time. Late morning, after a nap, often works best.
- **Keep it small.** The same source's rule of thumb for toddlers is the child's age plus one, so about three little guests. Siblings and cousins will add to that, and that's fine.
- **Every guest brings a grown-up.** Parents stay at this age, so plan seats, food and drinks for the adults too.

- **Free play beats organised games.** Bubbles, music, a ball pit or a box of toys will keep two-year-olds busier than any game with rules. Plan about 10 to 15 minutes per activity, as HealthyChildren.org suggests.
- **Toddler-proof the space.** Block off stairs, keep hot drinks and small objects out of reach, and know where you'll change nappies.
- **Expect a meltdown or two.** Tired, hungry or overwhelmed toddlers cry, including the birthday boy. A quiet corner helps everyone.

THE PLAN

# Countdown checklist

*Good parties are made quietly, weeks before, by people who write things down.*

Start about eight weeks before. Weekend slots at popular soft play venues go first, and booking calmly beats scrambling. Tick things off as you go; your ticks are saved on this device.

## 8 weeks before

- [ ] Set a budget for the venue or hall, food, cake and decorations. Write the total down before you start looking.
- [ ] Decide where: at home, a relative's house, a hall or a soft play venue.
- [ ] Draft the guest list: mostly family and close friends, plus a few little ones.
- [ ] Pick a time around his nap. Late morning or early afternoon usually works.
- [ ] Pick a simple theme or colour scheme (ideas below). At this age it's for the photos, so choose something you'll enjoy.

## 6-8 weeks before

- [ ] Shortlist 2-3 venues and ask each the questions below.
- [ ] Book, pay any deposit and save the confirmation email.
- [ ] Send a **Save the Date** (text in the invitation section below).
- [ ] If you're at home, plan where buggies go and where little ones can play safely.

## 4-6 weeks before

- [ ] Send the invitations, including the **dietary question**.
- [ ] Set an RSVP date about two weeks before the party.
- [ ] Order or plan the cake, and a small one for him to explore if you like. Our directory lists local cake makers under Cakes & bakers.
- [ ] Ask a friend to take photos, so you can be in some of them.
- [ ] Plan the timings (sample below).

## 2-3 weeks before

- [ ] Chase RSVPs with a friendly text. Most people are relieved to be asked.
- [ ] Collect allergies and dietary needs, for adults and little ones.
- [ ] Confirm numbers and the food order.
- [ ] Buy decorations, a candle and a lighter.
- [ ] Line up helpers: one for food, one for drinks and one for photos.

## Party week

- [ ] Confirm the time, address and arrival time with the venue.
- [ ] Keep his routine as normal as you can in the days before.
- [ ] Pack the party kit.
- [ ] Print the guest list with phone numbers and allergies.
- [ ] Charge your phone and power bank.

## Questions to ask every venue

These are the questions that tend to matter once you're in the room with a crowd of little ones and their grown-ups.

- [ ] Is there a separate area for babies and toddlers who aren't walking yet?
- [ ] Is the space exclusive to you, or shared with other families?
- [ ] What's included: food, drinks, a host?
- [ ] Can you bring your own cake, and where can you light the candle? (Mayford Village Hall, for example, only allows candles in the kitchen.)
- [ ] Do adults pay?
- [ ] Is there space for buggies, and somewhere to change nappies?
- [ ] Are high chairs available?
- [ ] How do they handle allergies and dietary needs?
- [ ] What are the deposit and cancellation terms?
- [ ] Is there parking, and is it free?

IDEAS

# Themes and party ideas

*At this age, the best theme is the one that makes you smile in the photos.*

At two, he'll love whatever he loves right now: diggers, trains, farm animals, dinosaurs or a favourite TV character. Plenty of two-year-olds are just as happy with bubbles and balloons as with any theme. Keep it simple: a colour scheme, one favourite thing on the cake and you're done.

**Shop by theme:** Vehicles · Diggers · Trains · Farm · Dinosaur · Safari. Our shop pages link to Amazon UK, and we may earn a small commission if you buy.

## Party ideas near Woking

Each name links to its Playtrail listing, with contact details and a map.

- **Soft play.** Munchkins Play Cafe in Byfleet runs soft play parties for under-5s, and Mazzy Bees in Sheerwater has a Party Corner (both prices below). Oasis Play Woking, Icon Coffee & Play and The Mucky Cow Play Cafe are worth a look too.
- **Animals.** Chobham Adventure Farm's weekday party package is for ages 1+ (prices below).
- **Role play.** Little Street in West Byfleet is a miniature role-play town scaled for little people (prices below).
- **At home or in a hall.** A local hall such as Mayford Village Hall or Horsell Village Hall gives you space for toys, bubbles and the grown-ups. Mayford doesn't allow bouncy castles or other inflatables, so check each hall's rules.
- **Cake.** Our directory lists local cake makers under Cakes & bakers.

THEME PLAYBOOK

# 4 themes with games, food and a cake for a two-year-old boy

Pick one and you have the games, the menu and the cake sorted. Each idea has three games you can run without a host, plus local people who can run it for you where we have found them.

## Old MacDonald's Farm

A second birthday is when he starts to love animals and their noises. A farm theme gives the grown-ups plenty of songs and gives you easy decorations: red, yellow and green, with hay-bale-brown touches.

- Animal noises: hold up a soft toy animal and ask him to say what it says. Everyone joins in, and the noises get sillier with each round.
- Farm sort: spread out toy animals and a few toy barns on a play mat and let the children sort and match.
- Feed the animals: let him 'feed' a cuddly cow with a plastic carrot or a toy bucket.

**Food and cake:** Cheese and cucumber 'hay bales', toast fingers and fruit. For cake, a green sponge decorated with toy animals, taken off before serving.

**Party bag:** A small bag with a sticker book or colouring pad. Choose items that carry age labels suitable for under-3s.

**Local help:** Farms2ewe (confirm they travel to Surrey).

Browse old macdonald's farm supplies in the shop

## Nee-Naw: Emergency Vehicles

At two, fire engines, police cars and ambulances make a loud, joyful theme. Red, white and blue are easy to find, and a few toy vehicles or cardboard-box cars do the job.

- Fire engine race: a cardboard box becomes a fire engine, with him sitting inside while an adult pushes. A noisy ride is the best entertainment at this age.
- Rescue teddy: hide a teddy in the room and let the 'rescue team' find it. Adults help the little ones.
- Sirens: a few clapping sirens and a 'nee-naw' singalong. It's loud, and it works.

**Food and cake:** Mini sausage rolls, cheese cubes and fruit pieces cut small. For cake, a red sponge with a toy fire engine parked on top.

**Party bag:** A small toy vehicle with no small parts, or a sticker sheet, handed over at the door.

Browse nee-naw: emergency vehicles supplies in the shop

## Under the Sea

Blue and turquoise, paper fish hanging from the ceiling and a bubble machine on a low setting give a soothing theme for a two-year-old. It also pairs well with a daytime party when the light is soft.

- Fishing game: lay out paper fish with a paperclip on each and fish with a magnet on a stick. Adults help.
- Wave dance: toddlers hold a long piece of blue fabric and make waves. A grown-up leads the song.
- Bubble pop: gentle bubbles floating over the room, with children trying to pop them.

**Food and cake:** Fish-shaped sandwiches, 'seaweed' cucumber ribbons and fruit. For cake, a blue sponge with a small toy fish.

**Party bag:** A bath toy, such as a plastic or rubber sea animal with no small parts, makes a fitting thank-you.

Browse under the sea supplies in the shop

## Gentle Dinosaurs

Some two-year-olds love dinosaurs and some find roaring a bit loud. A gentle version with friendly cartoon dinosaurs, green colours and a few soft toys suits both.

- Dino stomp: put on music and everybody stomps like a dinosaur, then freezes when it stops.
- Egg hunt: hide plastic or paper eggs at toddler height in the room. The eggs are big enough that they can't be swallowed.
- Roar and tickle: an adult dinosaur chases a giggling toddler, gently.

**Food and cake:** Fruit 'volcano' plates and 'dino nugget' chicken pieces cut small. For cake, a green sponge with a toy dinosaur on top.

**Party bag:** A small dinosaur toy with no small parts, or a board book about dinosaurs.

Browse gentle dinosaurs supplies in the shop

Planning for a girl instead? See the 2-year-old girls' party checklist, which has different themes.

THE DAY

# Timings, activities and party bags

*Short and sweet is the whole plan.*

The best way to calm party nerves is to have a plan for the time, even for a small family party.

## A 90-minute party

Late morning, after a nap, usually works best. Keep each activity short and let the children play.

| TIME | WHAT HAPPENS |
|---|---|
| 0:00 | Guests arrive: free play with toys, a ball pit or soft play |
| 0:20 | Bubbles and music: a few action songs or a dance with a grown-up |
| 0:35 | A simple activity: parachute play, playdough, or chunky crayons on a big sheet of paper |
| 0:50 | Wash hands and sit down for food |
| 1:10 | Cake and singing |
| 1:20 | Goodbyes, with a little something to take home if you like |

- [ ] Have one adult free to help with food and drinks, so you can enjoy it.
- [ ] Keep a quiet room ready for naps and feeds.
- [ ] Put the cake somewhere safe and out of reach until it's time.

## Gentle activities for two-year-olds

Games aren't really the point at this age. A few gentle activities are plenty.

- [ ] Bubbles, or a bubble machine.
- [ ] Music and dancing with a grown-up.
- [ ] Nursery rhymes with actions.
- [ ] A ball pit, soft play or a box of toys.
- [ ] Parachute play, with adults holding the edges.

- [ ] Chunky crayons and a big sheet of paper.

### Party bags

Party bags are optional at this age. If you'd like to give something, keep it simple: a board book or bubbles. Check the age labels on toys, because many aren't suitable for under-3s, and skip sweets. There are more ideas in the party shop.

LOOK AFTER THEM

## Food, drink and safety

*At a party, love mostly looks like paying attention.*

### Food and drink

- [ ] Finger food that's easy to hold: sandwich fingers, soft fruit, cooked vegetable sticks, crackers and dips.
- [ ] Cut grapes, cherries, berries, strawberries and cherry tomatoes into quarters (NHS).
- [ ] Don't give whole nuts or popcorn to children under 5 (NHS), and keep raw jelly cubes away from little ones, as they can be a choking hazard (NHS).
- [ ] Don't give honey to babies until they're over 1 year old (NHS), so keep it out of anything for baby guests.
- [ ] Babies shouldn't eat much salt (NHS), so go easy on crisps and salty snacks for little ones.
- [ ] The NHS advises avoiding food and drink with added sugar or sweeteners for children aged 4 and under, so keep sweet things to the cake and offer fruit alongside.
- [ ] Seat little ones to eat, in high chairs if you can, and always supervise them while they eat (NHS).
- [ ] Plan proper food and drinks for the adults. They'll be most of your guests.

### Safety

- [ ] Be careful with balloons. St. Louis Children's Hospital advises that latex balloons aren't recommended for children under 8, and that broken pieces should be collected immediately and kept out of reach.
- [ ] Keep candles, hot drinks and the kettle well away from little hands.
- [ ] Clear small objects off the floor, block off stairs and close doors to rooms you're not using.
- [ ] Check the toys in the play area are suitable for under-3s by looking at the age label.
- [ ] Ask parents before you share photos of their children.
- [ ] Keep a list of phone numbers and allergies, and know where the first-aid kit is.

THE DAY ITSELF

# Party kit, the day itself and afterwards

*Pack the night before. The morning belongs to the nap.*

The day goes better when the bag is already by the door. Here's what's worth having with you.

## Party kit to pack

- [ ] Cake, candle, lighter, knife, plates and napkins.
- [ ] A small cake or plain sponge for the birthday boy to explore, if you like.
- [ ] Nappies, wipes and a changing mat.
- [ ] Bibs, beakers and snacks for the little ones.
- [ ] A high chair or booster seat, if the venue doesn't have one.
- [ ] Spare clothes for the birthday boy (cake happens).
- [ ] A play mat and a basket of safe toys.
- [ ] Decorations and tape (check what the venue allows).
- [ ] A small first-aid kit.
- [ ] Printed guest list with phone numbers and allergies.
- [ ] Camera or phone, and a power bank.
- [ ] Bin bags for the tidy-up.

## On the day

Try to enjoy it. He won't remember the napkins, and neither will anyone else.

- [ ] Arrive early to set up, and ask what the venue allows.
- [ ] Put the cake and candle somewhere safe until it's time.
- [ ] Keep to his routine as much as you can: a nap before, and a feed when he needs it.
- [ ] Put one adult on photos, so you're in some of them too.
- [ ] Check food against allergies before serving.
- [ ] Light the candle away from little hands, and blow it out for him.
- [ ] Open presents later, when he's rested.

## After the party

When the last guest has gone, there will be cake on the floor and a very sleepy toddler. That's how you'll know it went well.

- [ ] Pay any balance and check for unexpected charges.
- [ ] Send thank-yous to everyone who came.
- [ ] Back up the photos, and print a few for the baby book.

- [ ] Write down who gave what.
- [ ] Note what worked for next year.

📍 NEAR YOU

## Four Woking-area options compared

*A price is only the beginning of the sentence.*

The headline price is only part of the story. What matters is what's included and what you'll still have to organise. As a rough guide: a 2-hour party room at Munchkins is £200 at a weekend, plus food from £5 a head; Mazzy Bees' Party Corner is £195-£225; and Chobham Adventure Farm's weekday package is £290. Details below were read on the dates at the top of this page. They change, so confirm before you book.

| OPTION | AGE FIT | PRICE AND WHAT'S INCLUDED |
|---|---|---|
| Munchkins Play Cafe, Byfleet | Soft play parties for under-5s. Party rooms for ages 1-8 | **Party room:** 2 hours' private hire for up to 15 children, £100 midweek or £200 at weekends (£90 or £160 with an entertainer, whose fee is extra). Food from £5 per head. **Soft play (under-5s):** £295 for 2 hours' exclusive use for up to 25 children at weekends, with a £100 deposit, or £18 per child on weekdays for 5-10 children during a normal session, including a lunchbox and drink each and one free adult per child. No outside food except the birthday cake. |
| Mazzy Bees Soft Play, Sheerwater | Soft play designed for ages 0-8 | **Party Corner:** up to 10 children, £225 peak (weekends and half term) or £195 off-peak. A 90-minute slot during public play: 45 minutes play, 15 minutes food, 30 minutes disco and karaoke or play. Includes sandwiches, unlimited squash and crisps. **Exclusive hire:** £490 for up to 15 children, then £12.99 per extra child, up to 40. Party bags £3 per child; pizza and chips £4.50 per child. |

| OPTION | AGE FIT | PRICE AND WHAT'S INCLUDED |
|---|---|---|
| Chobham Adventure Farm, Chobham | Bronze package from age 1 (term-time weekdays only). Weekend packages are for ages 4+ | Minimum 10 children. **£29 per child** (Bronze, term-time weekdays 3pm-5.30pm), £35 (Silver, weekends) or £39 (Gold, weekends, with a 30-minute Animal Barn meet and greet). Includes 1 hour 15 minutes of indoor and outdoor play, 45 minutes in a private party room, homemade pizza, carrot and cucumber sticks, an ice cream pot, squash, a party host, a party bag for each guest and one free adult per child invited. Bring your own cake and candles (sparklers aren't allowed). |
| Little Street, West Byfleet (role-play town) | Rooms scaled for little people. Babies in arms and non-walkers don't need a booked space | **Exclusive hire £295** for an 85-minute session, for up to 60 people including adults. A Friday offer (3.45-5.15pm) is **£225**, for Friday bookings to the end of December 2026. Includes unlimited squash and water for the children, £25 of café drinks for the adults, a PDF invitation and a free return visit for one child and one adult. Food isn't mentioned, so ask. |

## What stands out from a parent's seat

- **Munchkins Play Cafe:** Two very different parties under one roof: a private room you fill with your own entertainer, or soft play for the under-5s. No outside food apart from the cake, so budget for their menu.
- **Mazzy Bees:** The Party Corner runs during public play, so other families will be around. Food and squash are included. The page doesn't list deposit or cancellation terms, so ask.
- **Chobham Adventure Farm:** The most complete package: food, party bags and a host are included. For under-4s it's the weekday package only, the minimum is 10 children, and two parties can run at once on the party floor.
- **Little Street:** One price for up to 60 people, adults included, so it works for a big family party or a whole-class party. You'll need to sort food and cake.

Browse all Woking party venues

ASKED AT TEN AT NIGHT

## Questions parents ask

**How many children should I invite to a 2-year-old's party?**

About three little guests is the rule of thumb (age plus one), from HealthyChildren.org. Every toddler brings a grown-up, and siblings often come too, so the real numbers add up quickly.

**How long should it last?**

Under 90 minutes, as HealthyChildren.org suggests for toddlers, and timed around naps. Late morning usually works best.

**Does a two-year-old need an entertainer?**

Not usually. Bubbles, music and a ball pit or toys are plenty. If you do book someone, choose a short, interactive session designed for under-5s.

**What food works for two-year-olds?**

Finger food that's easy to hold. Cut grapes and cherry tomatoes into quarters, don't give whole nuts or popcorn to under-5s, and remember the NHS advises avoiding food and drink with added sugar or sweeteners for children aged 4 and under, so keep sweet things to the cake.

**Do I need party bags?**

No. If you'd like to give something, keep it simple: bubbles or a board book. Check the age labels on toys, because many aren't suitable for under-3s.

**What if he gets overwhelmed?**

It's very normal at two. Keep the party short, have a quiet room ready, and don't worry about opening presents in front of everyone.

SAY IT KINDLY

## Save the date, invitation and RSVP wording

*An invitation is a small promise of cake and good company. Make it easy to*

*say yes.*

### 1. Save the date (6-8 weeks before)

Save the date! We're celebrating [Child's name]'s 2nd birthday and would love you to join us.

Date: [day, date, month]
Time: [start - end]
Place: [home, hall or venue]

Full invitation to follow.
[Your name and number]

### 2. Invitation (4-6 weeks before)

You're invited to [Child's name]'s 2nd birthday!

Date: [day, date, month]
Time: [start - end] (we're keeping it short around nap time)
Place: [address]
Parking: [where to park, and where to leave buggies]
Little ones: [we'll have a play mat and high chairs / please bring what your little one needs]

Food: please tell us about any allergies or dietary needs, for grown-ups and little ones.

RSVP by [date] to [your name and number].

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

### 3. RSVP reply for guests to copy and fill in

Family name:
Coming? Yes / No
Adults coming:
Children coming, with ages:
Allergies or dietary needs (adults and children):
Need a high chair? Yes / No
Anything else we should know:

### 4. Reminder for anyone who hasn't replied (about 3 weeks before)

Hi [name], just checking whether you can make [Child's name]'s 2nd birthday on [date]. No pressure at all! Could you let me know by [date], and tell me about any allergies? Thank you!

### 5. Thank-you message (the week after)

Thank you so much for coming to celebrate [Child's name]'s 2nd birthday, and for the lovely [present]. It meant so much to have you there. Love, [your names]

### Handling the replies

You're holding other families' information, so treat it with care.

- [ ] Keep a simple list of each child's allergies and dietary needs.
- [ ] Send it to the venue, caterer or entertainer with your final numbers.
- [ ] Tell the party host about any serious allergy on the day.
- [ ] Use the information only to plan the party, and delete the list afterwards.

## Sources


- HealthyChildren.org (American Academy of Pediatrics), Playful birthday party ideas and tips for young children
- Mayford Village Hall, Hiring rates 2026
- NHS, Preparing food safely (Start for Life)
- NHS, Foods to avoid giving babies and young children

- St. Louis Children's Hospital, Why are latex balloons dangerous for children?
- Munchkins Play Cafe, Parties
- Mazzy Bees Soft Play, Parties
- Chobham Adventure Farm, Parties
- Little Street, West Byfleet and Parties and groups

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