

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bring in 2011 with a kid-friendly soiree that's just as much fun for the grown-ups.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL SUESSE



From left, Jack: T-SHIRT, \$48 (1-12), Littlehorn, 0412 997 038. SHORTS, \$69.95 (1-8), Mine By Kayla, (03) 9824 2311. Hugo: JACKET, \$69.95 (3-7), Beau By Bardot, (03) 9420 7900, bardotjunior.com.au. T-SHIRT, \$39 (2-12), Sudo, (03) 9555 4489. SHORTS, \$37.95 (2-5), Katvig from Baby Goes Retro, 0448 123 230, babygoesretro.com.au. HAT, \$49.95, Scotch Shrunken from Nest, (02) 9665 8885. Alfie: SHIRT, \$29.95 (1-5), Baby Gap, 1800 048 377. JEANS, \$69.95 (1-8), Mine By Kayla, (03) 9824 2311. Eliza: TOP, \$39.95 (2-8), Big By Fiona Scanlan, (03) 9827 8002, bigbyfiona.com. SKIRT, \$44 (2-6), Peace Street, (02) 9300 6322, peacestreet.com.au. BOOTS, \$124.95 (9-3), Cowboy Jack, (02) 8197 2805. BELT, \$59.95, Scotch Shrunken from Nest, (02) 9665 8885. HEADBAND, \$36.95, Big By Fiona Scanlan from Baby's Got Style, 1 300 468 789, babysgotstyle.com.au. Lily: PLAYSUIT, \$59.95 (4-14), Alex & Ant, 0414 948 199, alexandant.com.au. BOLERO, \$55 (1-8), Coco and Ginger, 0412 997 038.

LEFT: DANIELLE DE GAIL; MIDDLE: DANIELLE DE GAIL; RIGHT: DANIELLE DE GAIL



Personalised invitation, \$3.95, Smallprints, 0414 482 576, smallprints.com.au.
Personalised invitation, \$5, Imprintables, 0417 046 466, imprintables.com.au.

1 Make Plans

Sure, New Year's Eve isn't exactly what it used to be. Unless you splurge on a babysitter (expensive and hard to find) or talk your in-laws into minding the kids, staying in (with your offspring tucked up in bed and you falling asleep before the clock hits midnight) can seem like the easiest option. Enter the party for adults and kids. Yep, it's possible to throw a bash you'll both enjoy. Send invites out to friends who have kids for a whole afternoon of celebrations, kicking off at the child-friendly hour of 3pm. Who says you can't do an early countdown at 8pm and bring out the sparklers as the sun goes down?

DIY DECOR
A pretty ribbon garland adds a touch of whimsy. Simply attach several strips of ribbon to two long pieces of wood with strong double-sided tape. Hang from one wall to another and you've got an instant party vibe.

Ribbon, from \$1.99 per metre, Spotlight, 1300 305 405.



Cushions (striped and printed), \$34.95 each, Linen House, (02) 9552 6000. Cushion (blue), \$24.95, Freedom, 1300 135 588. Parasol, \$19.95, Chinatown, (02) 9267 8891, chinatown.com.au. Basket, \$30, The Market Basket Company, (02) 9332 2051, themarketbasketco.com.au. Towel, \$29.95, Ezibuy, 1800 148 148, ezibuy.com.au. Rug, \$111, Freedom, 1300 135 588.

GROUND WORK
Forget formal place settings. Roll out a large rug in the backyard and scatter a bunch of bright cushions for an easy and chic hang-out for guests.

2 Decorate

Keep the food and drinks simple and pretty-up the place with a smattering of vibrant cushions and lanterns.

Pom pom, \$25, Papier D'Amour, (02) 9362 5200, papierdamour.com.au.

Lanterns, \$4.95 each, Vivid Room, (08) 8376 9335, vividroom.com.au.

THANKS FOR COMING
Say thanks for coming (and leaving) with fabric lolly bags filled with treats for kids and adults alike.

Mini fabric bags, \$2.50 each, Imprintables, 0417 046 466, imprintables.com.au.

Lollipops, 25c each, Sweet Traditions, (02) 4961 1609, sweettraditions.com.au.

Banner, \$39, Imprintables, 0417 046 466, imprintables.com.au. Bucket, \$6.82, Big W, 1800 251 311, bigw.com.au. Lanterns, \$9 each, Scissors Paper Cake, 0413 296 670.

«PIT STOP
Forgo the esky and fill stainless steel buckets with ice and old-school soda bottles for afternoon refreshments.

«COLOUR POP»
Paper lanterns in myriad colours lend a cheery feel to any space. Hang them or scatter on the ground (with a weight if you want to keep them!).

Futon cushions, \$61.95 each, Rapee, (02) 9496 4511.

3 Set the mood

Distinguish the party from a regular weekend BBQ with a host of quirky party accessories that make the afternoon one to remember.



Glasses, \$2.50 each, Crows Nest Discounts, (02) 9907 3808. Hat, \$2.79, Woolworths, 1300 767 969, woolworths.com.au.

CHEAP AND MOST DEFINITELY CHEERFUL
Look no further than your local dollar store for a host of crazy props that will induce silliness with all ages - think oversized sunnies and party hats in all shapes and sizes.



Party hats, \$5.95 for pack of 8, Pink Frosting, 1300 855 633, pinkfrosting.com.au.



CAMERAS AT THE READY!
Scour websites like etsy.com and madeit.com.au for quirky party games like old-school moustaches on a stick. Be ready to snap the craziness that ensues.



Felt moustaches, \$15 each, Felt So Good, 0433 871 227, madeit.com.au/feltsogood.

Funny props and decorations help create a party atmosphere and make the event stand out from any other night of the year.



Headband, \$25, Bowtique, 1300 238 880, bowtique.com.au.

WITH THE BAND
Pretty headbands with flower or diamante embellishments add a festive touch for baby guests.

Headbands, \$15 each, Oscar Blue, (08) 8338 3898, oscarblue.com.au.



Willow: Top, \$29.95 (0-2), and shorts, \$19.95 (00-2), both Milky from Rocket Rascals, (02) 4267 2233, rocketrascals.com.au. Headband, \$9.99, Diva, (02) 9938 3311, diva.net.au.



Evie: Top, from \$19.95 (000-10), Luv Child, 0402 289 737, luvchild.com.au. Wings, \$29.95, Sinc Kids, (02) 9822 4882, sinckids.com.au. Bloomers, \$33 (000-2), Fabrik, 0418 250 229, fabrikstore.com.



Lewis: T-shirt, \$34.95 (2-9), Cocoon Clothing, 0417 290 336, cocoonclothing.com.au. Sports, \$49.95 (3-24mths), Country Road, 1800 861 911, countryroad.com.au.



4 Get busy

Make sure you've got all the props ready for an afternoon of energy-burning activities.



Rosettes, US\$15.90 each, Dear Colleen, etsy.com.

ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET...
Simple running races are always a winner, as is a game of beach cricket (one for the grown-ups too). Have little prizes on hand, like these sweet retro-style rosettes.



Beach cricket set, \$49.95, Sunnlylife, (03) 9421 6325, sunnlylife.com.au.



MAKE SOME NOISE
Bring back an old-school NYE tradition. Yes, it may get noisy but it's amazing how much fun kids can have with pots and pans and a few wooden spoons from the kitchen.

Pots, from \$17 each, and wooden spoons, from \$3 each, both Woolworths, 1300 767 969, woolworths.com.au.



Ukulele, \$18.95, Allans Music, 1300 884 321, allansmusic.com.au.



Radio, \$49.95, Sunnlylife, (03) 9421 6325, sunnlylife.com.au.



- THE PARTY PLAYLIST**
Create a mini nightclub in your backyard with tracks that will appeal to kids and adults alike. (The Wiggles aren't welcome at this party).
1. '1999' by Prince.
 2. 'DON'T STOP 'TIL YOU GET ENOUGH' by Michael Jackson.
 3. 'I GOT A FEELING' by Black Eyed Peas.
 4. 'SURFIN' SAFARI' by The Beach Boys.
 5. 'CELEBRATION' by Kool and the Gang.
 6. 'DANCING ON THE CEILING' by Lionel Richie.
 7. 'CLAP YOUR HANDS' by Sia.
 8. 'BIG JET PLANE' by Angus & Julia Stone.
 9. 'WHAT'S MY NAME' by Rihanna.
 10. 'JUST DANCE' by Lady Gaga.

MEXICO CITY

Bedsread, \$750 (double), My Island Home, (02) 9362 8760, myislandhome.com.au.



Chair, \$170, Charlie's Bucket, (03) 6231 2881, charliesbucket.com.au.

Mat, from \$275, Little Lamb from Down To The Woods, 0468 933 784, downtothewoods.com.au.



Flag banner, \$29.95, Hiccups from Linen House, (03) 9552 6000.



Bedside table, \$299, Freedom, 1300 135 588.

Go south of the border with brightly coloured piñata-inspired buys. Hang flag bunting for easy wall art and add an embroidered throw for a genuine Latin feel.



Donkey toy, \$19.95, Hiccups from Linen House, (03) 9552 6000.

Paint in (L-R) Scarlet Ribbons, Dandelion Yellow and Green Paw Paw, \$36.71 per litre, all Dulux Wash & Wear from Bunnings, (03) 8831 9777.



Print, US\$15, Tascha, etsy.com.

Cushion, \$43.95, Rapce, (02) 9496 4511.



Fabric, \$69 per metre, No Chintz, (02) 9958 4800.

Ukulele, \$29.95, Sunnylife, (03) 9421 6325, sunnylife.com.au.



MEXICO

Cactus toy, \$95, Via Alley, (02) 8354 0077, viaalley.com.

Letters, from \$15.95 each, Opus, (02) 9360 4803, opusdesign.com.au.

'TIS THE SEASON

Embrace a little festive cheesiness this year for a Christmas your kids will never forget.

» \$44.50, Dragonfly Toys, (02) 4017 0401, dragonflytoys.com.au.

« \$33, Thomas Paul, (07) 5500 0678.

Stockings

Whether you go for cute, classic, quirky or cool, choose a stocking that's big enough to fill with treats and sturdy enough to hang up year after year.



≈ \$60, Papier D'Amour, (02) 9362 5200, papierdamour.com.au.

« \$19.95, Paul Frank, 1800 132 780.

« \$34, Eeni Meeni Miini Moh, (07) 3252 1885, eenimeeni.com.

≈ \$19.95, Rapee, (02) 9496 4511.

≈ \$75, Papier D'Amour, (02) 9362 5200, papierdamour.com.au.

≈ \$49.95, Cocoon Couture, (05) 9530 5199, cocooncouture.com.

≈ \$21.95, Fiona Kate, 0413 707 695, fionakate.com.au.

Toy Sacks

Perfect for bigger or boxed kids' toys, opt for a customised version for a Christmas keepsake they'll have long after they stop believing in Santa.



Santas, \$22 each, Papier D'Amour, (02) 9362 5200, papierdamour.com.au.



Rug, \$272, Down To The Woods, 0468 933 784, downtothewoods.com.au.

≈ \$49.95, Stuck On You, 1800 645 849, stuckonyou.biz.

The countdown Kids love nothing better than the anticipation of an exciting event. Help them count down the days (and teach the important life lesson of patience) with an advent calendar that suits your home and your taste.



\$22.95, Rapee, (02) 9496 4511.



\$39, Eeni Meeni Miini Moh, (07) 3252 1885, eenimeeni.com.



\$95, Katy Jane Designs, 0432 223 766, katyjane.com.au.



\$35, Papier D'Amour, (02) 9362 5200, papierdamour.com.au.



\$85, Robert Gordon from Lark, (03) 5348 3571, larkmade.com.au.