

Teaching the Topic

Birthday parties are an important part of children's social lives as they contribute to a feeling of belonging to a group. Appropriacy of clothes, gifts and behaviour are all important, both for the child attending and the family giving the party.

Resources

Birthday party invitations; birthday cards; different types of presents; brochures from businesses that host children's parties like Junglerama, Chipmunks, McDonalds, Lollipops; birthday party games children play (pin the tail on the donkey, pass the parcel).

Activities

- Read for time, date, address, birthday child's name, any additional information, for example, *Please don't bring food, my daughter has food allergies.*
- Talk about writing and delivering invitations.
- Learner asks questions *Why...? Who...? What...?* about photos of children's parties.
- Discuss birthday party customs in New Zealand – what to wear, what to take as a present, what kind of food is provided, what kinds of games are played, whether parents stay at the party, how children get home at the end of the party.
- Role play dropping children off at the party and collecting them after, greeting the birthday child and the parents, other parents, other children.
- Role play being the host parent, greeting and farewelling children.
- Talk about New Zealand children's party food, games and customs, helping yourself to party food, pass the parcel, the birthday candles, children getting small presents, take-home packs or prizes at another child's party.

Language

- Party food and activities.
- Question forms for role plays – *What kind of clothes do children wear? Do children dress up for birthday parties? How much do people usually spend on a present? What did you eat? Did you have fun?*
- Greetings and farewells.

Using the Worksheet

A possible introductory activity: How are children's birthdays celebrated in the learner's country?

This activity uses an invitation to a child's birthday party. The learner reads for information and answers questions. The tutor and the learner discuss birthday parties.

Main learning points

Scan for details of name, gender (the fairy!) and age of birthday child, place, date and time of party, RSVP details, mother's name, special requests – *Please bring socks.* Discuss appropriate presents to take.

What else could be learnt?

New Zealand customs around children's parties – food, games, activities. The learner can compare with their culture. Think about where the party is or any special activities that are mentioned on the invitation. Some things might not be mentioned, for example, a hat if children will be outside, clothes that won't be destroyed by paint.

The learner can ask questions – *How much should I spend on a present? What would be a suitable present for a boy/girl aged 4/5/8 years? Do I stay at the party with my child? What will happen at the party?*

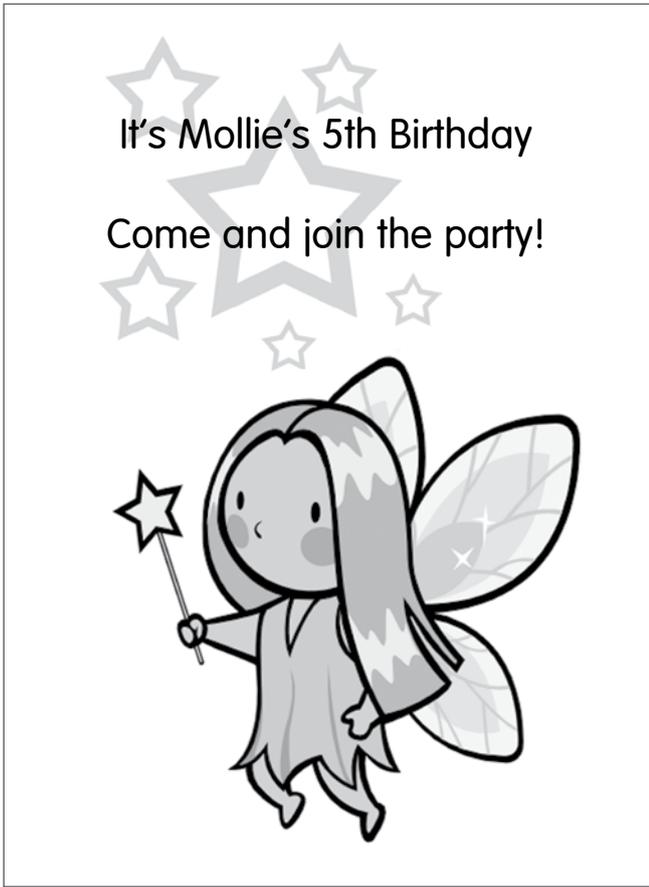
Small talk with other parents when collecting or dropping off children – *How did it go? Any problems? Looks like they had fun! What lovely/terrible weather for a party.*

Write an invitation to a birthday party.



Joining the party

Scan the invitation and answer the questions.



1 Whose birthday is it?

2 Who is invited?

3 Where is the party?

4 What time does the party start?

5 What is 'RSVP'?

6 When does Ayisha's mum have to RSVP by?

Discuss:

What would be a good present to take? _____

What else does Ayisha have to bring? _____