

Budgeted Birthday Blast

I think I blogged about my daughter's upcoming 10th birthday party a few weeks ago, looking for activity ideas. There was no need to worry, because we had the party last weekend, and everyone had a blast!

We ended up extending the party to make it last 3 hours instead of 2, and two of the girls were even able to spend the night. It was actually really easy to entertain 8 nine and ten-year-old girls, as well as the birthday girl's two little sisters, ages 3 and 5. Seventeen-month-old little brother was a nuisance, but the poor little guy was really very outnumbered by all those girls!

As we waited for the girls to arrive, they played a video game on the tv where there are floating balloons they get to break using their bodies instead of controllers. Next, Dad led the girls in about 5 rounds of the [party game Mafia](#) – they loved it! Then, we made English muffin pizzas – I set out the English muffins, pizza sauce, cheese, pepperoni, and mushrooms, and the girls made their own pizzas and then I put them in the oven for 5 or 10 minutes. The entire activity cost about \$6, and the kids loved it! Then we had cake, but I had realized ahead of time that with 4 kids, we spend about \$80 on birthday cake per year! Wow, does that add up! So I had a talk with my oldest, and she really had no problem with me getting mini cupcakes instead of a personalized birthday cake and numbered candles. This decision saved us about \$15! I got two 2 liters of pop, and a few cheap bags of snacks for the sleepover, and the entire party cost us under \$20! Most importantly, my daughter and her friends had an awesome time and made some great memories! Happy birthday Taylor!!



(No, the party wasn't so boring everyone fell asleep! This what a group of kids playing the party card game Mafia look like!)