



Birthday-Theme Party Ideas

Create a fun, memorable birthday party for your little animal lover with these simple tips!

Decorations: Decorate your room/space with pictures, posters, or items from different kinds of habitats—the ocean, jungle, forest, arctic, and desert—and the animals that live in each. You can also use stuffed animals if you have them!

Storytime Activity: Read the book *Animal Motions* while the children have fun acting it out!

Tip:

- Use the free lesson plans at **AnimalMotions.com** to get tips for how to read through the book with a group of children and use 3 or 4 of the suggested questions at the end to have a short discussion afterwards.

Post-Art Activity: A free mini-poster can be printed out at **AnimalMotions.com** for the children to color after reading through the book! Or, if you're really into art, you can include this poster in the gift bags and make animal masks instead.

- **For Animal Masks:** Using pre-made, blank paper plate or paper bag masks, have the children create their favorite animal using crayons, construction paper, pipe cleaners, or whatever art supplies you can provide.
- **Adults:** You can make your own masks using either round paper plates or large brown paper bags. For each, cut out places for eyes, nose, and mouths before the party. (For the paper plates also add strings to the sides to be able to tie the mask on with.) For the paper bags, cut slits on the sides so the bags can fit loosely over the child's whole head and neck area. (Children can decorate the back and sides of the paper bag too!)

Games:

- **Pin the Tail on The Donkey/Mule:** An oldie but a goodie! (And does it really need to be explained?)
- **“Fawn, Fawn—Horse!”** A variation of “Duck, Duck—Goose!” Have the children walk around the circle, tapping each child's shoulder lightly while saying “fawn” and then, when they say “horse!” have them “gallop” like a horse (instead of run) around the circle after each other, and may the fastest “horse” win!
- **Musical Animal Noises Chairs:** Play like musical chairs, only use soundtracks of animal noises and nature sounds instead of songs.
- **Sleeping Animals:** This is a great one to calm things down after the group is getting a little too “wild.” Have the children all pretend to be their favorite animal from the book for a moment, moving about like it would in nature. Then tell them it's “nap time” and have them lay down on the floor as that animal would naturally to go to sleep—stretched out, curled up, or whatever they would do in the wild. Once they are all quiet and still, tell them now they need to stay sleeping while you walk around trying to playfully disturb them (meaning making them laugh or wake up in silly ways). Once they do, they are out. The winner of the game is the last one still sleeping!

- **Note:** If giving out prizes for any of these games, use small stuffed animals for the winners.

Cake:

- **For an *Animal Motions* Cake:** Make your choice of cake, using two different sized round cake pans so you can layer the smaller one on top. (You can also use a square one on the bottom if you prefer.) Frost the bottom cake layer with blue frosting (like the ocean, making some parts of the top edges looking like small “waves,” if desired). Place the top layer on the frosted bottom layer and frost the top one with green frosting (like the forest/jungle). Sprinkle both with rainbow sprinkles on both the tops and sides. Then place Swedish Fish (in assorted colors) all around the layered bottom in the “water” on both the top and sides, spreading them out evenly. Add candles to the top layer. Then place animal cookies all around the top layer on both the top and sides on the “land,” spreading them out evenly. (Just be sure they aren’t too close to the candles!)
- **For *Animal Motions* Cupcakes:** Frost your choice of cupcakes with green, yellow, and blue frosting (using each color separately), creating a colorful “habitat” for your animals! Sprinkle with rainbow sprinkles. Place an animal cookie in the middle of each green and yellow one. Place a Swedish Fish in the middle of each blue one.

Treats to Serve:

- **Food:** Animal Cookies, Gummy Bears and Snakes, Swedish Fish (labeled “Seal Food”), Carrots/Celery (labeled “Bunny Food”), Bananas (labeled “Monkey Food”), Apples (labeled “Horse Food”), Bit-O-Honey candy and Fresh Blueberries, Raspberries, or Blackberries (each labeled as “Bear Food”), and your favorite candy or treat (labeled “Human Treat”).
- **Drinks:** Water (labeled “All Animal’s Favorite Drink!”), and Juice (your favorite kind).

Gift Bags: A box of Animal Cookies, 2–3 small plastic animal figures, and a snack-size bag containing a few pieces of each candy: Gummy Bears and Snakes, Bit-O-Honey, Swedish Fish, and your favorite candy or treat. Also include the free *Animal Motions* mini-poster (which can be printed out at AnimalMotions.com) rolled up and tied with a ribbon/string if you didn’t color it to take home during the party (and don’t forget it if you did!).

Keepsake Guest Book: Use the blank page in the back of the *Animal Motions* book to have guests sign or draw on as a memorable birthday souvenir of your special day and party!

Have Fun (And a Happy Birthday!)

AnimalMotions.com