

The "Looking 4 staff" weekly series



It's time to party!!!

The top of the page features a decorative header. It consists of two thick, wavy orange lines that curve across the top. Above these lines, several dandelion seed heads are depicted in a dark brown color. Some are fully formed, while others are shown as seeds blowing away on thin stems.

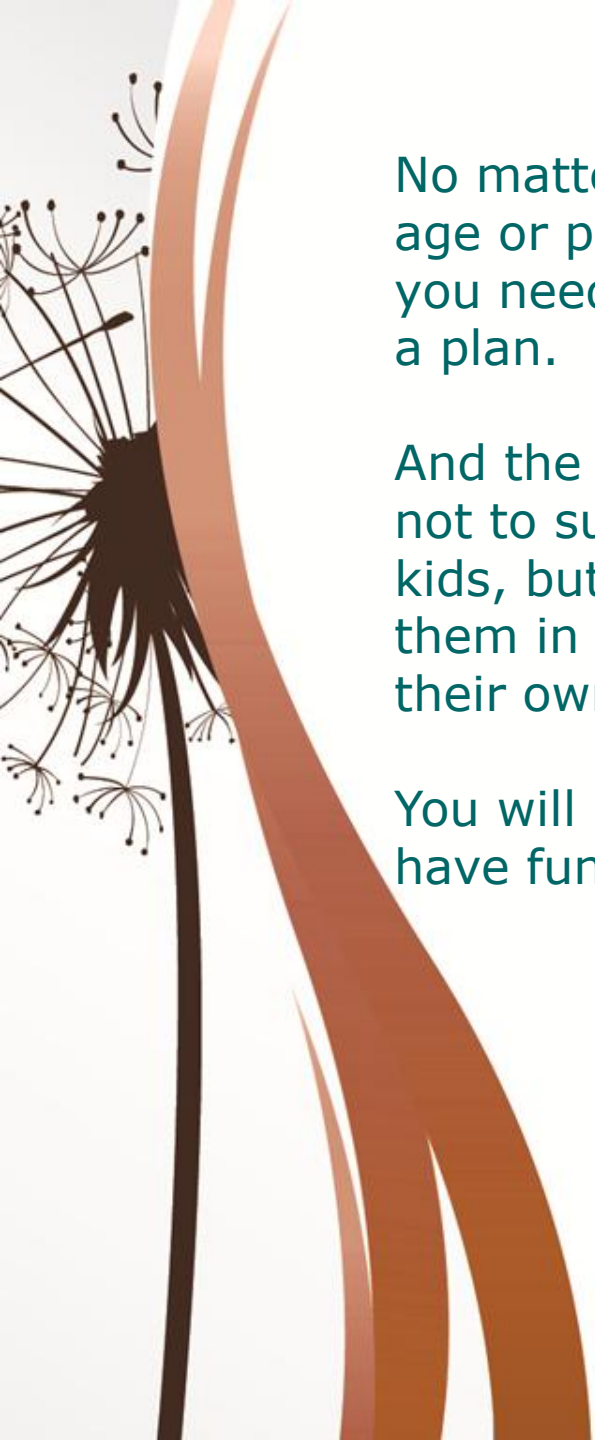
We must admit we
all like to party.

We like to be
remembered when it's
our anniversary, or
just celebrating
something.

We like to have
friends coming over
even for the smallest
reason.

But when your life is
all about presents, ice
cream, playing all day
long, chasing unicorns
or falling stars to
make the sweetest
wishes, then a party
cannot be missed.

Make sure you will
make this a day to
remember for your
kids.



No matter the kids' age or preferences, you need to start with a plan.

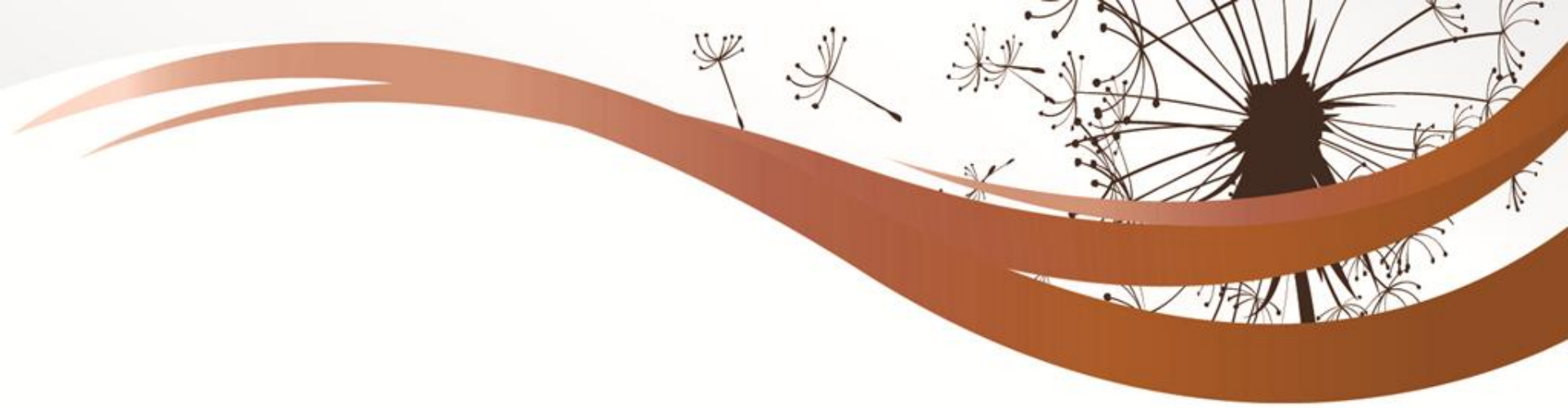
And the first part is not to surprise your kids, but to involve them in organising their own party.

You will definitely have fun together!

Beside the fact that you might learn new things about them, it will be a good team moment.

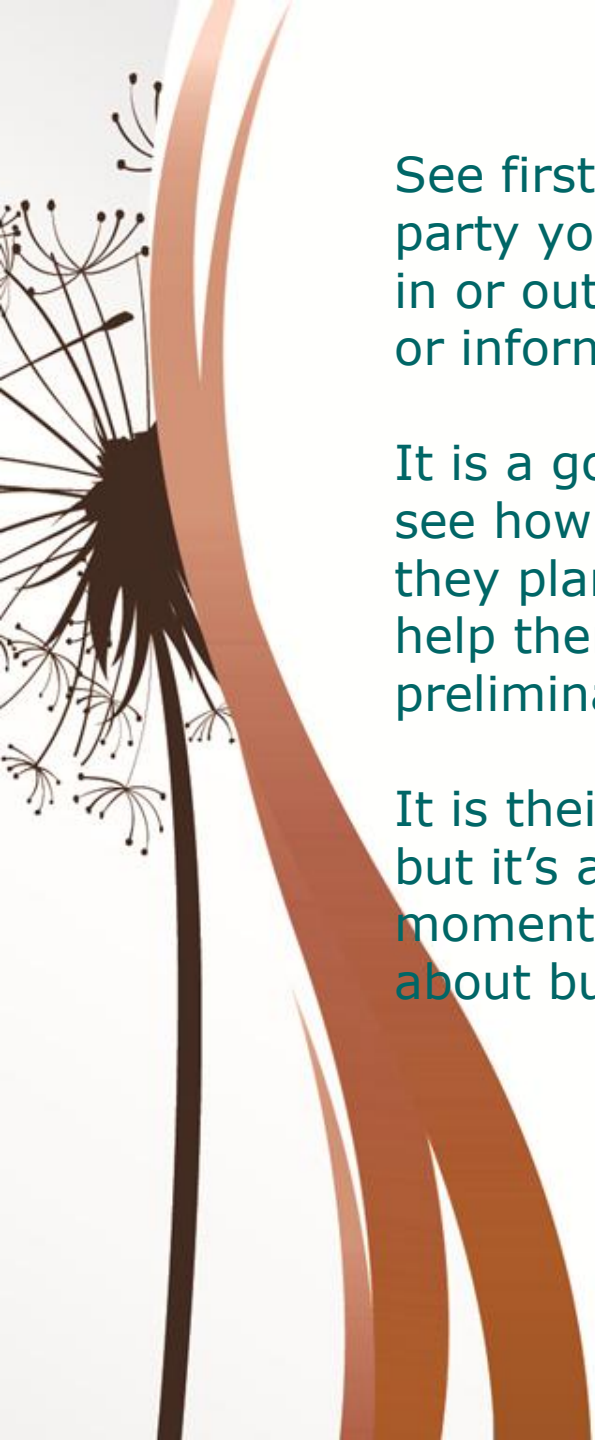
No need to mention the benefits of teaching your kids what planning is, organise their thinking and actions.

In case you just hired new childcare staff, it will be a good opportunity for them as well to know your family better.



“Who says we have to grow up?”

Walt Disney



See first what type of party your kids want: in or outdoor, formal or informal.

It is a good idea to see how many friends they plan to invite and help them make a preliminary list.

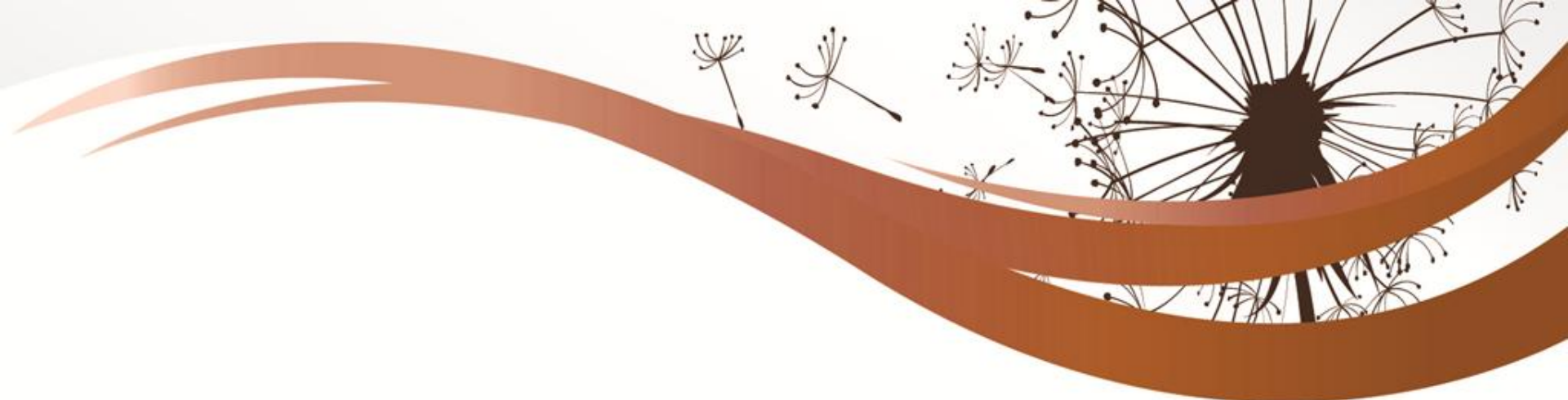
It is their birthday, but it's a good moment to learn about budgeting.

Next step would be to choose a theme.

Make sure they understand that the theme needs to be in harmony with the location.

They cannot have a fancy party at a picnic or the zoo for example.

You can teach them to consider their friends' preferences as well, not only their own.



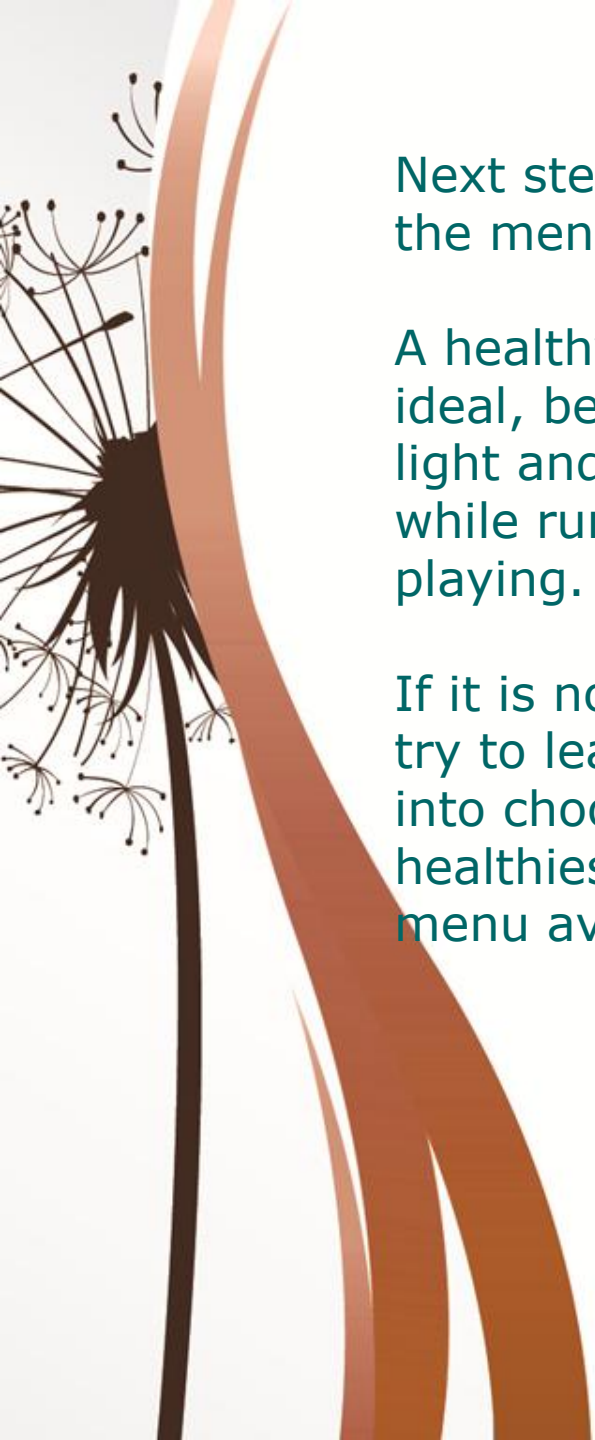
When the above is set, you can decide upon the location.

Remember to advise on a location proper to the season, party theme, guests' age and number, weather prognosis, possibility to serve food (home made or catered).

Together with your kids, now you can choose the party theme.

Ask them about their friends' preferences too, not only theirs.

They will learn that it's not only about having fun, it's about making everyone feel good at their party.



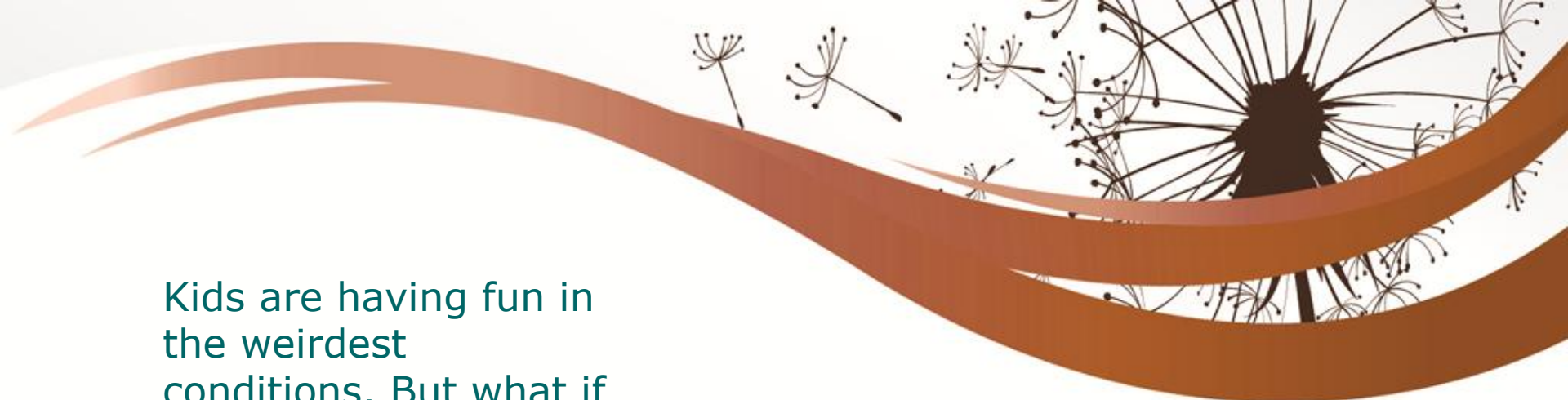
Next step is to plan the menu.

A healthy menu is ideal, because it is light and easy to eat while running and playing.

If it is not applicable, try to lead your kids into choosing the healthiest and suitable menu available.

Remind them as well that some of their friends may have different allergies or special diets and you need to keep this in mind when choosing the food.

Offer to help if they don't have all the details, and contact the parents in order to obtain the missing info.



Kids are having fun in the weirdest conditions. But what if they are in a new group of friends?


Let's get "professional help" and try to fit some entertainment in the budget: face painting, balloon animals, a science or a mentalist magician if the kids are older.

The list is opened!

All good hosts prepare a small gift for their guests when they leave the party.

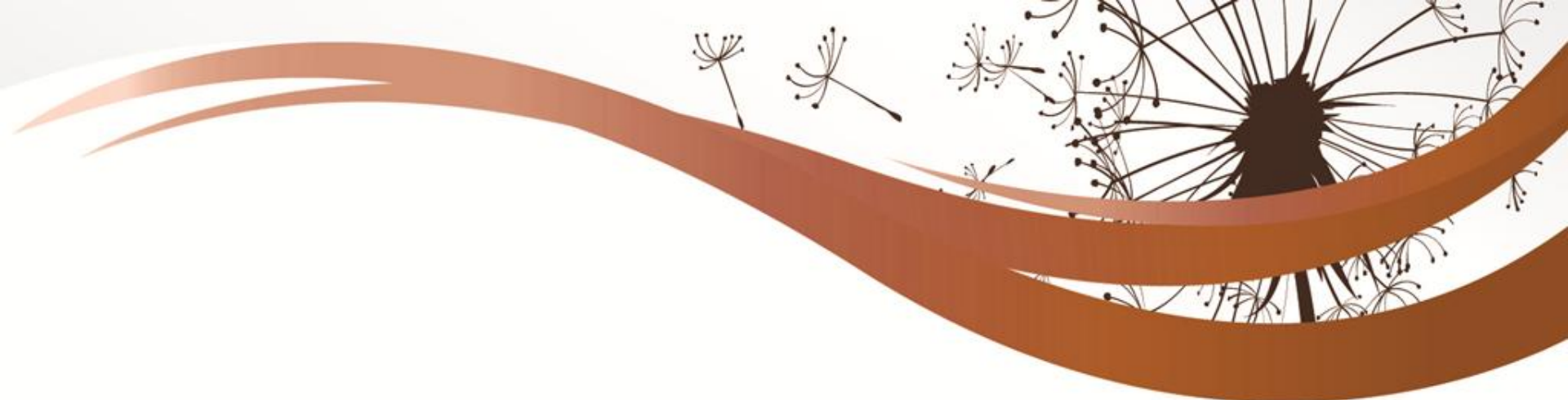
Ask your kids what suggestions they have regarding this.

If in trouble, fill in a piñata with small gifts. Success is guaranteed!



**“Laughter is timeless,
imagination has no age
and dreams are forever”**

Walt Disney



No matter if you choose the colour run, karaoke, inflatable games, DIY gifts or plan a big budget party, remember that at the end of the day, every event can be in the same time a valuable lesson for your kids.

Involvement, caring for others, planning ideas, budgeting, creativity, sharing with friends... and the list can go on.

These are important abilities you want your kids to develop with every step of their precious life.

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