



Block Party!

This is the year to finally organize that street fest.

6. Get Carded Find modern, fresh block-party (as well as barbecue, pool, and summer-birthday) invites at peartreegreetings.com.

7. Workin' at the Car Wash

Hang strips of solid-color vinyl tablecloths and colorful sponges from the top of an archway constructed from inexpensive PVC piping (at Home Depot). Have the kids line up on scooters, trikes, and in wagons. Direct sprinklers to squirt riders as they roll by.

8. Swap Meet Gather the grown-ups and fill a bag with hats, shirts, skirts, swimsuits, boxers, lingerie, and dresses. Stand in a circle. Pass the bag

around until the music stops. The player left with the bag closes his eyes, reaches in, and puts on the first thing he touches (no rifling!). When the bag's empty, onlookers give a prize to the best sport.

9. I'm Gonna Get You, Clucker! Designate two safe points, like trees. Stand in

between them and act like a hen. When you call for your chicks, all the other players run from one point to the other while you try to catch them. If they're caught, they have to stay in the middle and help you. The last chick caught gets to be the mother hen in the next round.

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Squeeze Plays Make a double batch of lemonade—one for the kids, the other to whip up these grown-up cocktails (but for goodness' sake, don't mix them up!):

Lemonade Margarita Mix $2\frac{1}{4}$ cups lemonade and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup tequila. Garnish with lemon slices.

Citrus Sparkler Mix 1 cup lemonade, 2 cups Champagne or sparkling wine, and 2 Tbsp cranberry juice cocktail.

Gingersnap Mix 1 cup lemonade, one 12-oz bottle ginger beer (nonalcoholic; at supermarkets), and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup gin.

11. Chain Reaction Two people start the game. They hold hands and chase the others; when they're tagged, they join the chain. Players in the chain can split off (but only in even numbers) and link back up as they like. Play until all are caught. This is giggly fun for preschoolers, too, but it's easier if the littlest ones stay in the same chain.

12. Twist It, Sister For a takeaway memory, set up a tie-dye station. Kids love making their own tees, and now the mess is outside. For the (surprisingly simple) directions, go to ritdyer.com.

13. Seeing Spots At the end of the night, give out polka-dot beach balls as favors. (\$6 for 12; orientaltrading.com)

Hot Wheels *Cruise the 'hood in style.*



14. Retro Rider
Schwinn Girl's Spirit bike (\$119; walmart.com)



15. Hard Head
Rainbow Stripe helmet by Nutcase (\$60; nutcasehelmets.com)



16. Poppin' Wheelies
Downforce Performance bike (\$160; performancebike.com)



17. Rebel Forces
Raskullz Mohawk helmet by C-Prme (\$25; toyurus.com)