



## clued in

Cody Banks and his SpyKids counterparts have inspired many young Sherlocks, and so seven-year-old Yuki was thrilled to be invited to a "spy party." The invitation was written backwards and had to be held up to a mirror to be de-coded. At the party, clues for finding surprises were left all over the house – even inside the individual cupcakes. Create easy to read, short notes, to direct the children from room to room. For those who can't read, coloured footprints can do the trick. For the younger crowd, have them find three little pigs, a vicious wolf and housing material of wood, straw, and brick to put it all together. Use construction paper to cover up juice boxes and get the kids to guess what kind they're going to get (you can always exchange after), and let them decide what kind of pizza might be in each individual box. Make sure the birthday cake doesn't have the actual age of the child on it, rather the correct number of candles, or other objects to let the guessing continue. This is the one time where you might want to hand out the loot bags as the

guests arrive. They could contain everything a detective in training requires. Note pads, pens, magnifying glasses (even crazy glasses for disguise) can all be found at the dollar store. Try to put names on them so they don't get mixed up during the fun – or that could be a riddle you'll never solve.

## party in

Nostalgic for a birthday party like your parents used to have for you? Want to host it at home, but dreading the time and organization it takes? Look no further. At "Party At My House," the party comes to you...all you have to do is pick a theme, clear a space and let the fun begin. Recently Rhonda Brown and Jessica Molinaro, owners of this unique new business, threw a unicorn themed party for a thrilled six-year-old birthday girl. Starting with the invitations, the theme continued through to a unicorn piñata, and a craft that had partygoers decorating boxes made into unicorns, with storage space for the prizes which spilled out, making them instant and memorable loot holders. Specializing in traditional party games like musical chairs, pass the parcel, pin the tail on the...well unicorn in this case...or Spongebob himself depending on the theme, they will do all the work. Food is provided (pizza from Molinaro's Restaurant for the kids, and anything the adults want to order), and best of all, set up and clean up is part of this fantastic party package. Visit [www.partyatmyhouse.ca](http://www.partyatmyhouse.ca) for more information.

For more theme and party ideas, pay attention to your child's interest (trains, bikes, soccer, special movies) and let your own imagination take you on a fun journey your child won't soon forget. Until the planning starts for next year... **G**



*Kathy Buckworth is the author of, "The Secret Life of SuperMom". She lives in Mississauga with her husband and four SuperHeroes (Victoria, 13, Alexander 11, Bridget 6, and Nicholas 3) What a great idea for a party...*

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