

resource guide

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8 creative party-favor ideas

Send guests home with a memorable (in a good way) takeaway that won't drive parents crazy. The best part? They're all \$7 or less per child.

Customized coloring books: Choose your party theme (princesses, monsters) and a coloring book to match it. \$7 each at frecklebox.com.

Mini classic gum-ball machine: It looks like the real thing, only smaller. The 30 mini gum balls it comes with should last your child, oh, about two days. (For ages 3 and up.) \$3.50 at beau-coup.com.

Origami kit: For a favor that's also a party activity, these paper-folding kits come with detailed instructions for making six animals. \$35 per kit (with supplies for six kids) at fingermagic.com.

Treasure boxes: A good pirate knows no booty is safe without a well-made chest. Paint these wooden boxes, then hunt for treasure while they dry. \$20 for a dozen boxes at orientaltrading.com.

Personalized chocolate bars: Unwrap a Hershey's candy bar with your child's name and one of 69 designs, from farm animals to Cinderella. \$23 for a dozen bars at favoraffair.com.

Manicure set: This cute five-piece kit comes in a black patent-leather purse that is perfect for budding beauty queens after a spa-day party. \$5 each at favoraffair.com.

Seed packets: Customize packets of wild-flower seeds with the birthday girl's name and the date. \$2 each (with a minimum order of 24) at beau-coup.com.

Flexible wax sticks: These gummy sticks twist to form any imaginable shape—just be prepared to help with a Transformers replica. \$20 for a kit of 500 (keep the extras for rainy days) at bendaroos.com.