

Mother-Daughter Event

Here are a few tips for putting together a Mother-Daughter event that is sure to be a success. Suggestions for a theme using mirrors follow the tips.

1. Have a brainstorming/planning meeting with your sponsors and volunteers.

Be sure to create an agenda for this meeting. Brainstorm a theme based on current events or on the interests of your sponsors. Your agenda should cover the following: theme, budget, menu, date and time, location, invitations, supplies, prizes, table decorations, serving utensils, games, ticket design and distribution, and individual assignments with deadlines. Consult both the church calendar and your personal calendar. Come prepared with some open dates that have your pastor's approval. Also, remember to bring a calendar to your meeting so you can record the various deadlines leading up to the event. Remember too that you can avoid some conflicts by planning a brunch or tea instead of an evening event.

2. Book your location as early as possible.

Get your event on the church calendar as soon as possible. Reserve the fellowship hall or off-premises facility early as well. Especially near holidays, reservations fill up quickly.

3. Make assignments and delegate the work.

Use the talents of your sponsors, volunteers, and girls. They can do everything from invitation design to setting the table. If each club level takes an assignment and spends one evening helping, then the girls feel involved and will be more likely to attend.

4. Choose your theme and decorations.

Decide whether it will be fancy or casual and plan accordingly. Consider having hostesses who will bring the centerpiece and/or table settings for each table. Perhaps each hostess could bring something. Arrange for fun party favors. Theme-related balloons and napkins will add to your decoration schematic. Bulletin covers can be used for a printed event program. You don't have to spend a lot of money to have an attractively decorated room.

5. Plan your meal and shopping list.

Consider your resources when you plan your menu. Do you have an adequate kitchen at your disposal, or should you have the event catered? Think of the ages of girls involved and what their tastes are. Sometimes the simplest food like pizza or chicken strips is the most appropriate. Round out the meal with salad or

vegetables and dip, applesauce, a dessert, and a drink. Set up a buffet line and have volunteers serve. Be careful to follow food safety guidelines by providing disposable gloves, keeping safe food temperatures, and quickly refrigerating leftovers.

6. Plan your activities, supplies, and door prizes.

Refer to your theme to come up with games that fit the ages of your girls. Crossword or word games can be pre-printed and placed on the tables as placemats. Or, set up activity centers for various ages where girls can participate in a game of their choice. Try to plan activities that a mother and daughter can do as a team—finding things together, completing each other's stories, etc.

7. Verify your set up, serving, and clean-up crews.

Hand out your crew assignments in writing and call your helpers to remind them of their commitment. Organize the work for them so everyone feels needed and has a definite role to fill.

8. Involve the girls in the planning and design of invitations.

Mothers love hand-drawn invitations, and the girls are more likely to get them home safely if they have some personal interest in them.

9. Book your speaker or entertainment and advise them of the theme. Get someone who will be comfortable in your setting and familiar with your theme.

10. Enjoy the party, and thank everyone who helped.

Give public recognition of your volunteers at the event. Also write thank you notes with words of encouragement for your volunteers. Finally, remember to have fun at the party, as all your advance work will help make the event a success.

Mirror Theme Ideas/Tips

Reflections of Mom/Reflections of Christ

Mirror Image

Do You See What God Sees?

In His Image

1. Invitations

Make a tent-style invitation. Let the girls color and address them.

Let the girls draw a picture of themselves on pages pre-printed with the details of the event.

Use the shiny side of aluminum foil glued to a card to give the impression of a mirror. Use your theme stickers and say "Hope to see you there."

2. Decorations

Assign sponsors the responsibility of decorating a certain number of tables.

Use inexpensive mirrors set with candles in glass votives.

3. Activities

Put up a large mirror and play “Mirror, mirror on the wall.” When each girl steps up to the mirror and says, “Mirror, mirror on the wall, who’s the fairest one of all?” a sponsor hands out a card with a statement about inner beauty being pleasing to the Lord. Try to make each card slightly different.

Set up “reflection” areas where girls can write nice personal notes to others on large poster board.

Ask a make-up consultant to set up an area for the girls to experiment with make-up.

Arrange a dress up center with old clothes, hats, and accessories. Use a floor length mirror so the girls can see their creations and take pictures.

Take mother-daughter photos.

Have a craft center with hand mirrors, ribbons, yarn, glue, and puff paint to decorate the backs of the mirrors.

4. Prizes

Small pocket-sized mirrors.

“Reflector” lights for bicycles.

Gifts the girls made in advance for their mothers such as a decorated hand mirror including a photo of the child glued to the back.

5. Speaker

Someone who will speak on the importance of looking at ourselves as Christ sees us.

Someone who will speak about learning to reflect Christ.

Let someone share a testimony of how her mother shaped her life.