

Mr. and Mrs. Carlo wanted to have a surprise birthday party for their **daughter** Carly. She was turning seven years old. It would be easy to plan it while she was away on a week-long trip with her brother, Lee, and her grandparents. Carly's older brother, Jay, said he would enjoy helping to prepare for the party.

First, they sent notes in the mail to ask friends and family to join them. Jay helped to get these into the mail. He then gave Dad a hand setting up a tent so that rain could not spoil the party. The next step was to get snacks for the party. They went to the store and got plenty of hotdogs, hamburgers and tonic. They also picked up some chips and dip. They knew that kids could eat quite a bit. Mom ordered the cake from a bake shop that makes cakes that are rich and moist. She chose one with whipped cream frosting.

Mom checked with the other people in the apartment complex to see if they would mind a little **noise**. She told them the party would last until nine. All of the people said it was just fine. They did not mind a bit of **noise** and said they hoped the kids would enjoy themselves. They knew Carly and her friends were not the kind of kids who would destroy things or run around in the halls.

The only problem left was planning an activity for the kids' enjoyment. They had some games the kids could play and they got some videos and CDs. The problem was that it was likely to be quite hot and humid and there was nowhere to swim. At last, Mr. Carlo came up with a super **idea** - squirt guns! The kids would have a blast squirting each other and getting wet!

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