

DJ Doug & Fast Forward Entertainment

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If you are receiving this FAQ, congratulations! You have made it to within a few months of your simcha without giving up hope that there will be an end to this craziness. I have compiled a few frequently asked questions (FAQ) that will help you prepare for the last few decisions you will need to make about the party.

Do we need to purchase dance floor giveaways and if so who should get them?

Dance floor goodies are like knives, forks and spoons; without them, your party would just not be the same. They are a party “staple” and will help attract party guests towards the focal point of your party: the dance floor. I encourage you to let me bring these goodies to the party. I know what works well and what items are taboo. I will pick, pack and unwrap your giveaways and have them ready for the dance floor. I promise, you will not pay one cent more if you order from me, plus keep in mind the convenience factor of not having to schlep a box to the party or have your living room filled with more packaging than you already have in there. Prices for these items will average about \$175-\$350 for smaller to larger groups. Prizes for games will range in price from \$50-\$100.

Should we get dancers as a part of our entertainment for the party?

The rule of thumb is this. If you have more than 30 kids coming to the party, I strongly encourage you to consider dancers/motivators/additional sets of hands. If you have more than 50 kids attending the party, 2 dancers should be considered. Keep in mind that dancers don't just dance! They help with crowd control (moving people from one area to another/cocktail hour to main room), they play games with kids, they lead all the line dances, they help with the younger set (under 10 years old) and they keep the flow of the party intact. As a DJ with over 1,500 bar/bat mitzvahs as experience, I can assure you, this option is your single best add-on to the party. Rates for dancers are \$400-\$600 each, determined by availability.

Is lighting important to a party?

In a nutshell, there are 3 types of lighting to consider: 1) dance floor lighting; 2) up lighting; 3) table lighting (or pin spotting).

- 1). Kids love dance floor lighting as a way to create a “club” or “disco” environment. On a small scale, 4-6 fixtures that beat, light and pulse to the music in a multitude of colors is a great way to create a fun and festive dance floor environment. A small lighting package will cost \$400-\$600. Multiple truss, intelligent lighting packages will cost \$750-\$1500.
- 2). Up-lights are fixtures placed on the ground, shining up against a wall or column and create a single wash of color. They are usually placed around the perimeter of a room. Fixtures rent for \$50 each (A typical room would have 10-20 light fixtures).
- 3). Pin spotting is a spot light fixture used to highlight a table or display. Pin spots are hung from the ceiling and replace the room's existing light fixtures. A “lift” is needed to

install these lights since they will be hung from the ceiling. Each pin spot requires installation by a lighting professional. Fixtures rent for \$150 each including labor for installation.

In my opinion, lighting should be considered in the order I presented it above. Since kids love a darker, more club-like environment, option one is your best bet.

Should we get another form of entertainment, like one of those photo stations, caricature artist or t-shirt artist?

Consider adding entertainment if you see it as a part of your party vision. Just remember, although the goal is to get everyone up on the dance floor, some guests tend to gravitate away from the dance floor if they are not “dancers.” Also, a photo station will give your guests a fun “keepsake” from the party. These stations will also serve as added entertainment as well. What can be more entertaining than watching Uncle Morris from California have his photo placed onto a chocolate lollipop? Or seeing Aunt Mickey’s face put onto Marilyn Monroe’s body. Novelty stations range in price from \$250 - \$500 per hour.

We are considering a candle lighting and montage. What do we need to do?

If you are doing a candle lighting at the party, I can assign the music. Please email your candle lighting when complete. If you are considering a montage, you will need a several technical components: a projector, a screen, an audio system and a DVD player or laptop. I can provide these items for you (approx \$400-\$600) and take care of coordinating the “show.” If you are considering bringing your own projector, screen and player---I urge you to reconsider. Why? You have 4 hours to enjoy your child in all his/her glory, don’t spend 20 minutes setting up, testing and playing your own montage. It is the exception rather than the rule that the montage, when presented by the host, goes smoothly and without technical glitches. Your party will come to a screeching halt if not presented seamlessly. Your party is a multi-thousand dollar production without a dress rehearsal. Leave it to the professionals.

Note: While preparing for your party, I have tried to give you my best advice and answers to the most frequently asked client questions. However, many other options come to mind in addition to the above ideas. There can be books written (and I am sure there are) about other party enhancers and options as well. If you also have questions about photography, videography, plasma screens, balloons, decorations, party planning and more, I have a Rolodex full of professionals ready to help you. Don’t reinvent the wheel, I am here to help create a memorable experience for you and your entire family.

You will receive a questionnaire from Washington Talent about 30 days before your party. You are welcome to either fill it out and send it back to the Agency or hold onto it and use it as a guide to our “details” call a couple weeks before the party. If you need to reach me directly, please call me at 301-762-1800 etc. 142 or 410-461-5500.

I hope this FAQ helped! Looking forward to an amazing celebration.

~DJ Doug