



Although it is hard to follow all these rules and ideas, it will help you and your guest to have a good time. This will probably make your guest want to come for another visit. You sure work hard! You are a good host to your guests and friends!

TIPS FOR PARENTS TO HELP YOUR CHILD HAVE A GOOD PLAYDATE:

1. Limit the playdate to one guest and arrange for any siblings to go elsewhere (this will remove any chance for 'two-on-one' groups to form).
2. Supervise and "hover" in the background so you can intervene if a conflict arises and to remind the children of the rules.
3. Limit the length of the visit to 45 minutes - 1 hour.
4. For the first few visits with a new guest, you may want to plan specific activities, such as baking cookies or making an art project.
5. Before the playdate, review the rules so your child knows what to do/how to act. (Read this book!).
6. Remind both children of the house rules, such as not playing in your bedroom.
7. Make your home fun! Prepare fun toys, activities, and snacks!
8. If your child has a particularly favorite toy, you may want to remove it beforehand, so it won't get broken or cause conflict.
9. The last 15 minutes are usually the best-remembered. Plan the most fun activity for this time frame.
10. Discourage non-interactive activities such as the TV and computer.
11. After the playdate, review what went good and not-so-good. This can help to plan for the next playdate.
12. Teach your child to politely change activities (for example, rather than saying, "I'm bored!", they can suggest a new activity).
13. You may want to provide duplicate toys for popular activities (such as two dumptrucks).
14. Enjoy! Remember, they're just kids!

Reference (for this social story and these tips):

It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend: helping the child with learning disabilities find success, Rick Lavoie (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005).