



INTRODUCTION AND PARTY INVITATIONS

Do you have a Jedi Knight living in your home who loves the *Star Wars*[™] movies? This is a classic series of movies that tells an age-old tale of good vs. evil that kids love to watch and re-enact themselves. For your next party, invite all of your child's Jedi and Sith friends to a galaxy far, far away for a *Star Wars* adventure of millennial proportions!

Create **Scroll Invitations** that look like the opening scene of the movies where the background of the movie is rolled out on the movie screen. Take a picture of your child dressed up as his favorite *Star Wars* character and place it at the top of the scroll.

Below, write your party details in the scroll format using thematic language:

____ (age of your child) years ago a baby boy was born. He was named ____ and he was strong in the Force. Now he is ready to celebrate his ____ birthday and begin his training as a Padawan at the Jedi Training Academy. You are invited to celebrate with ____ and learn the ways of the Jedi alongside him. If you are up to the challenge make your way to the Jedi Training Academy (# Street, City, State, USA, Planet Earth). Your adventure begins ____ (date) at ____ hours (time). Younglings will be making and using their own light sabers and taking a turn on the firing range with Academy-approved training blasters and laser cannons. (Galactic security measures require you leave your own weapons at home.) Please inform the Jedi Council whether or not you accept this invitation to celebrate with ____ by sending an urgent reply. Please join us. You're our only hope! May the Force be with you!

DECORATIONS

Mark the party spot by hanging balloons around the front of your home.

Place a banner over your front door saying, *Welcome to a galaxy far, far away.*

Cover the party table with a *Star Wars* table cover and ensure each place setting has a *Star Wars* plate, napkin, cups and utensils.

Place *Star Wars* toys on the party table as a centerpiece.



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Try hanging *Star Wars* models or simple star-shaped cutouts from the ceiling.

Create two distinct areas of the party room: the Light side and the Dark side. In the Light area, place white sheets everywhere with posters of the Jedi knights placed on the party walls. In the Dark side, place black sheets and poster board on the walls and place posters of Darth Vader on the party walls.

Purchase glow-in-the-dark star shapes, available at Toys"R"Us, and put them on the ceiling or use them as balloon weights.

Cut several pieces of curling ribbon one to two feet long. Curl the ribbon by pulling it between your thumb and the blade of scissors. Spread the curls on your table.

Hang balloons in bunches for best effect by tying a colorful ribbon around the strings of several balloons so they hang together.

Attach streamers to a light fixture in the center of the party table to add to the festive environment. Create multicolor streamers by placing two different colored streamers back-to-back and twisting them.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Greet the party guests as they arrive by saying, "Welcome, young Jedi." Have the *Star Wars* soundtrack playing in the background.

Provide the party guests with Jedi vests and belts made out of felt. Let them know they are now in training and to enter the party they need to remove their shoes.

Fill a jar with jellybeans and have the party guests guess how many are in the jar. Place a small sign on the jar that says, "Use the Force to guess how many jellybeans are in the jar." The one with the closest guess gets to bring the jellybean jar home.

While waiting for everyone to arrive, have the guests make the following crafts:

Starscape Mural. Attach or draw several star, planet, and moon shapes to the white paper and set up bowls of markers, crayons, glitter, and star stickers. Ask the party guests to create their own *Star Wars* battle by using the bowls of craft items to draw spaceships, the Death Star, and anything else they feel could be found in space. Ask guests to initial their part of the mural. This mural makes a great keepsake. If you so desire, you can cut the mural with a scissors and mail each party guest's design creations with thank you cards.

Decorate Your Home Planet. Hand out a paper plate to each child and instruct them to decorate their home planet with glitter, paint, sequins, and markers.



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When everyone arrives, begin the games:

Pass the Death Star. Before blowing up the balloons, fill with a half handful of confetti and several small balls. Blow up the balloon and tie it closed. As the balloon is passed around a circle, the confetti and small balls within the balloon will bounce around as if the Death Star is exploding. Ask the guests to sit in a circle. Hand the birthday child the Death Star balloon. Explain that everyone must pass the Death Star around while the music plays. When the music stops, the child holding the Death Star must “explode” out of the circle. Play until only one child remains.

Meteor Shower. Blow balloons up with a small toy or prize inside and tie closed. Gather the children to the center of the play area. Toss balloon meteors into the middle of the gathering of guests and instruct them to destroy the meteors to uncover prizes. Toss enough balloons so all the guests have at least one meteor to burst.

Asteroid Rock Search. Wrap prizes in tin foil and hide them throughout the party area. Announce that it is time to search for the prize-filled craters. Watch as the guests search, discover, and reveal.

Movie Scene Act Out. Rent or purchase the birthday child’s favorite *Star Wars* film. Select a scene with several characters and write down all the dialogue on cards – one card for each character. Purchase props and costumes as appropriate for the scene. Set the video or DVD so it will begin playing at that scene.

Gather the children around and explain that it is time to act out a *Star Wars* scene. Show the guests the scene by playing it with a video or DVD. Assign several children parts and give each one a card with their dialogue. Other guests will watch until the scene is acted out. Then, the guests that formed the audience switch places with the actors.

Add-On: Consider using a face-painting kit or other types of makeup to be applied to the guests when it is their turn to act. You will need extra helpers for this to keep everything moving smoothly.

Millennium Falcon Relay. Cut four *Millennium Falcon* shapes (8"x10" circles) out of cardboard. Let the birthday child color them with markers, or wrap them in aluminum foil so they look like the real *Millennium Falcon*. Divide guests into two equal lines and give the first person in each line two *Millennium Falcons*.

Explain that the *Millennium Falcons* become the only place they can step on as they travel from the front of the line, around a chair, and back to the line again. The game begins by having the children place one *Millennium Falcon* on the ground and step on it, then place the other *Millennium Falcon* on the ground in front and step on it. They then pick up the first *Millennium Falcon* and place it on the ground in front of the other. When they reach the finish line, they hand the two *Millennium Falcons* to the next player in line. The team to make it all the way around the course first is the winner.



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Holocam Guess. A Holocam records holographic images that enable *Star Wars* characters to send visual messages to each other. The party guests take turns appearing as if delivering a message through a Holocam that has lost its sound capacity. Each child writes down a chosen *Star Wars* character and then acts that person out, making movements and sounds (but no words). The rest of the children guess who the player is.

Jedi vs. Sith Race. Pick one or more players to be Jedi knights, and everyone else is a Sith. When the Jedi hear the command *May the Force be with you!*, they must try to catch as many Sith as they can. If players get caught, they must go to a designated area called Sith Prison. To be rescued, one of their Sith friends has to tag them in the prison.

PARTY MENU

Droid Dogs and Bobo Fett Buns – hot dogs served in buns
 Vader Veggies – vegetable tray with ranch dressing
 Chewie Cheese Torte – cheesecake
 Ships and Dip – any type of favorite chips and dips
 Light Saber Rods – pretzel rods dipped in chocolate with star sprinkles
 Luke's Hands – plastic gloves filled with green space popcorn

Green Space Popcorn. Boil sugar, corn syrup, and margarine together for 3 minutes. Stir in soda and powder drink mix. Pour over 6 quarts of popcorn. Bake at 225°F for 45 minutes, stirring every 10 minutes. Remove from oven and break up immediately.

Pink Space Slushie. Mix sherbet into the cherry soft drink for a pink, frothy drink. (Best when prepared in a punch bowl to minimize mess.) Garnish with some cherries.

Star Cookies. Prepare the birthday child's favorite cookies and cut into star shapes before baking. Decorate with sprinkles/jimmies.

Chocolate Lightsabers. Melt chocolate and pour into a cigar mold and refrigerate. When solid, wrap one end of each in tin foil to form the Lightsaber handle.

Solar System Cake Array. Arrange a 9" round cake and 1 mini round cake like our solar system. (*Star Wars* takes place in a galaxy far, far away, but it is similar in many ways to our galaxy.) Don't forget licorice ropes for the rings around Saturn. Frost one cake green and blue (use vanilla icing and food coloring) for Earth. If you frost thickly, pressing in with different size measuring spoons will make craters on some of your planets.

Make Death Star and Tatooine Sundaes. Place two round scoops of ice cream in a bowl, making one slightly larger than the other. Pour hot fudge over the smaller scoop for the Death Star and caramel topping over the larger scoop to resemble the landscape of Tatooine. Add streaks of red and green gel icing between the two scoops to simulate laser fire.



PARTY FAVORS

Prepare a treat sack for each child to be given out at the end of the party as a memento of the day. Fill each bag with items such as *Star Wars* figures, paper crowns, glow-in-the-dark bracelets, gummy candy, *Star Wars* stickers, and other snacks and treats.

Alternatively, create light sabers for a take home favor, along with their felt vests and belts. Light sabers can be made using wrapping paper cardboard tubes wrapped in aluminum foil. Additionally, provide a few silver balloons as well so the kids can continue the fun at home.

Take pictures of your party guests during their Jedi training and send thank you notes with the pictures enclosed to remind the kids that the Force is with them.



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