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SLEEPOVERS AND SLUMBER PARTIES

"The older you get, the fewer slumber parties there are, and I hate

that. I liked slumber parties. What happened to them?" ~Drew Barrymore

When a bunch of girls come over to spend the night, why is that called a "slumber party" or a "sleepover"? Almost no sleeping ever happens! But even if there isn't much shut-eye, a slumber party *is* one of the most incredibly fun things that girls can do. Believe it or not, some girls have had to be hospitalized during them because they started laughing so hard, it turned into a medical emergency.



Supplies

Your mom will be a huge help here, but in case she needs reminding, sleepovers are all about **unhealthy** food. (That's pizza, popcorn, ice cream, soda, and chips in case you didn't know.)

It's also fun to have on hand some musical instruments that don't require skill to play (like tambourines, kazoos, bongo drums, and so forth). Goody bags for girls to take home after the party aren't required, but are nice if you have the time to put them together. These could contain glowsticks, nail polish, hairclips, necklaces, little stuffed animals, bracelets, loofahs, large amounts of cash, whatever you want!

Sleepovers and Slumber Parties

Also, make sure to have plenty of toilet paper on hand. It's amazing how many rolls of it a bunch of girls can go through, especially if they roll someone up in it or go out TPing someone's house.

Tip: Going to someone else's house? Roll your pajamas, pillow, and supplies up in your sleeping bag for convenience. And don't forget a flashlight!

Party Themes

As far as party themes, you don't need to have a theme to have a good time, but sometimes a goofy theme can get everyone involved and excited about the party.

There are all sorts of ideas that you've probably heard of, like Movie Parties, Decade Parties (1960s, '70s, '80s), Camping-In Parties, or Treasure Hunts. Naturally, Pajama Parties are an easy type of party to throw. What's more fun than wearing comfy PJs and spazzing out?

You Said "come as you are!!"

Here are a few other theme ideas:

"Come as You Are" Party

Your friends have to be game for this "spur of the moment" party. The idea is that you call them at a weird time (like early morning or after a soccer game) when the girl might be wearing something out of the ordinary. Whatever the girl is wearing when she is called is what she wears later to the party.

Karaoke Partu

There's something about putting a microphone in a girl's hand that turns her into an instant ham. If you have a video camera, be sure to record the performances. (If you have techno-skills, you can even make your own music videos!) Then prepare to rock the house with your talent!



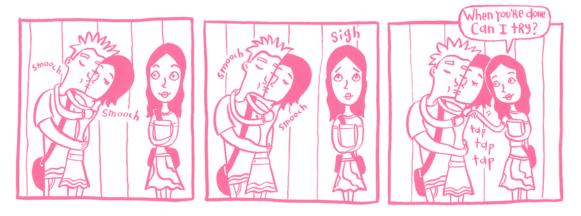
These are not the kind of school emergencies where the fire alarm is going off . . . these are way more important!

People Are Blocking Your Locker

Maybe a girl who has a locker near yours always has her friends grouped around her. Or even worse, a couple is making out in front of your locker. They are so wrapped up in each other, they don't even know you exist!

Aside from the usual "excuse me" comments, one stink bomb might make all of them go away and $st\alpha y$ away. Of course, that's against school rules, so you might just act like a real spazz and elbow your way into their group. Then say, "Really? Wow, really?" to everything the girls say until they are annoyed and leave.

As for the kissing couple, just tap the girl on the shoulder and say, "When you're done, can I try?" That should do the trick.



It's Lunchtime and You Have Nowhere to Sit

This might be the world's most horrible feeling. Maybe you came to lunch late, or you're the new kid at school, or you just had a fight with your friends . . . we don't know! But anyway, there you are in line at the cafeteria, and as you wait to pay for your food, you realize that there is nowhere for you to sit!

Believe it or not, teachers have the same problem in their staff lunchroom. We suggest you go in there and brainstorm solutions with the teachers. We're sure they'll appreciate it!

Family

At some point, you'll find yourself arguing with your parents about *important things*. Do you want to know the most common argument girls have their parents? *Half* of all girls say they argue with their parents about cleaning their rooms. Hey, that's not a bad reason to keep your room clean in the first place! **Other common argument topics**:

- Not being able to pick out your own outfits.
- Being treated like a little kid.
- Feeling like you don't have any privacy.
- Always having to change the oil in the car.
- Having a curfew that is too early. (If you ARE caught out past curfew, call home, and then when your folks pick up, say "I've got it!")

Helpful Housework Tips!

If you were supposed to be doing housework but it slipped your mind until the last second, these tips might help buy a little time:

1. Sprinkle a little cinnamon on a cookie sheet and put it in the oven at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Then turn off the oven and open its door a little to let the heat and cinnamon smell get out. When your folks come in, look really tired. Say, "I'm sorry I didn't get to the housework. I baked a bunch of cookies for [insert needy family or charity name here] and I haven't had time to get started yet." Then get started!

2. Quickly spray a little furniture polish out on the furniture by the front door. As soon as your parents come in, they will smell it. They will immediately *assume* that you've been working! (This works even better if they find you on the couch looking exhausted.)

Sisters and Brothers

If you're lucky enough to have sisters or brothers, try to enjoy them! If you fight sometimes, that's normal. If you fight with your brother ALL the time, get an appointment with your family doctor. Once there, request a *brother-ectomy*. (This is the surgical removal of your brother.) That might do the trick!

The thing is, your siblings are awesome to have around. If you didn't have them, who would you complain about your parents to? If you have *younger* brothers or sisters, try to go out of your way to be nice to them. This might mean something as basic as going to the movies together. It doesn't take much effort on your part, and you will be their hero afterwards. (Given a chance, little kids **LOVE** to idolize their older sisters!) Girls with siblings will sometimes fantasize about being an only child. Then there would be no more live-in pests to bother with! But an only child dreams about having brothers and sisters. It's natural to wish for what you don't have.

Strategy Tips

If your brother or sister ever tells you to "shut up," try using this magical spell from ancient times: | don't shut up, | grow up,

and when I look at you, I throw up.

Problem solved!

Big Problem: Mom and Dad (or everyone else) always compares me to my older brother/sister.

"Why can't you be more like your sister?" This has to be the last thing that a girl wants to hear ... except for maybe, "Why can't you be more like your brother?"

Stay calm. Give a big fake smile and nod silently. Then go to the nearest place where you can be alone and punch the air several times! (Now is also a good time to mutter bad words.) You know that you're your own person even if nobody else knows that what you do makes you you!

Bigger Problem: It seems like my parents love my brother/sister more than they love me.

At some point, everybody with brothers or sisters thinks that their siblings get better treatment. It might even be true! The problem is that parents can't *always* be fair; it's just not possible. If you really think that this is happening, your best move is to *calmly* explain your

position to both of your parents. Try to have examples ready.

Do NOT let it turn into an argument. You just want them to see your point of view. Since they are adults, your parents will appreciate your mature outlook, and they may even agree with you! **Stay** calm and use examples.

