

Organising your Graduation Day

Graduation is all about recognizing the accomplishments of your young graduates. Whether you are recognizing leaving of your Nursery, advancement to the next level or simply the end of the school year, here are some ideas for recognizing this milestone in their early academic careers:

Some Ideas to consider

No long speeches – Have the teacher or Manager say a few nice things about how hard the kids worked and what they accomplished.

Get the children to Perform – sing, dance, do a play or sketch

Artwork displays – cover the walls with student artwork.

Diplomas – award each graduate a diploma (which implies completion) during the ceremony.

Certificates – award each graduate a certificate during the ceremony for their accomplishments:

- Perfect attendance
- Learning numbers
- Learning ABCs
- Learning vowels
- Learning shapes
- Learning colours
- Learning to read
- Learning days of the week, months of the year, etc.
- Learning to tie shoes
- Being a good teacher's helper
- Being a good listener
- Knowing their phone number and address
- Writing name

Balloon drop – at the end of the ceremony, suspend balloons in plastic from the ceiling. Attach a string to the corner of the plastic. At the appropriate time, have someone tug on the string so the plastic gives way and the balloons come cascading down.

Confetti – if you can tolerate the clean-up process, children love confetti. They can help make it and then toss it at the end of the ceremony.

Treats afterwards – no celebration is complete without a treat! Cookies, cake, fruit, cheese, punch, etc. all makes a great ending to the day's celebration

Slideshow – Ask parents to send in baby photos and make a display or power point presentation to be shown on a screen during the presentation

Make a video – For sale to parents or to use in Nursery, or on web sites, ask your photographer.

Who to Invite to the Ceremony

- Immediate Family (parents, step-parents, siblings)
- Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins
- Potential new students of your program
- Local Media (see below)
- Head Teachers or representatives of local schools
- School Board Members
- PTA Members
- Supporting Businesses – if any local businesses have donated to your Nursery, invite them to the celebration.

Use the ceremony to get good publicity for your nursery

Let the public know about the quality education you and your staff provide to young people. Depending on the type of program you offer, contact the local newspapers to write a story and take pictures. If you are part of a corporate day care program, invite the HR or Marketing departments to cover it for the employee newsletter.

For young students, graduation instills a special school spirit and recognition of their accomplishments. The ceremony creates closure as they move on from this first milestone and onto the next big step in their academic career.

Advice for parents

As a parent, you will swell with pride when your child achieves this first milestone in their academic career. You've made their education a priority and now it's paying off. The ceremony is also an opportunity to capture a photo and to celebrate with your child. See below for other ideas:

- Purchase an official graduation portrait, there will be plenty of other photo opportunities too, so don't forget your camera
- Let your child choose where to go for dinner or what to have for dinner at home.
- Give your child a special gift to commemorate the event.
- Create a scrapbook page or stand alone collage of your child's schooling experience.
- If you've maintained a baby book for your child, add details about this accomplishment to it.
- Let your child invite a friend to a special play date at a local playground or other activity.
- Give your child a special book.