The 1st Birthday Run-of-Show

A precise schedule to keep your baby happy, engaged, and perfectly rested.

Host a beautifully styled, stress-free celebration before the afternoon snooze. Keep this physical timeline visible for helpful grandparents.



Key Party Metrics

90 minutes
Total party run-of-show timeframe

10:30 AM
Cake in the snack slot

6-inch
Standard smash cake size

2 days prior
Dress rehearsal smash timing

5 minutes
Hesitation avoided by pre-denting

4 edges
To secure on the clear liner

Pre-dent the frosting

Press a small fingertip dent directly into the top of the buttercream. It breaks the smooth surface and gives them an inviting place to grab a handful right away.

The Party Schedule

1. **First half hour** Guests arrive, settle in, and grab a quick cup of coffee before the main event.
2. **Minute 45** The cake smash takes center stage. Hand baby a dry wooden spoon beforehand.
3. **One hour mark** Open gifts efficiently while guests snack, then begin a gentle, quiet wind-down sequence.
4. **Final 15 minutes** Wipe down, change into fresh clothes, and transition to the quiet nursery for sleep.

Pre-Party Prep Timeline

1. **Wednesday Morning** Order the smash cake to ensure your bakery run is secured well in advance.
2. **Thursday** Run the mini-cupcake trial to preview the mess and prevent unexpected sensory overwhelm.
3. **Friday Evening** Inflate the balloon garland early so you are actually present and relaxed tomorrow.
4. **Saturday Morning** Pick up fresh cake at 9:00 AM, set up high chair at 9:30, welcome guests at 10:00.

Setting Up the Smash Zone

- [ ] Position high chair so left window sends soft side light.
- [ ] Spread a clear shower-curtain liner flat for an invisible mat.
- [ ] Tape down the transparent liner with heavy-duty double-sided floor tape.
- [ ] Anchor decorations securely to the wall, keeping loose strings away.
- [ ] Keep safe standby snacks, fresh baby wipes, and water accessible.

Match Your Everyday Aesthetic

Find your row: **Your Room Palette**

Your Room Palette	Your pick	Why
Earthy greens & warm browns	Woodland Picnic	Use a plaid blanket over grass
Vibrant yellows & oranges	Citrus Sunshine	Anchor with fresh citrus slices
Dusty pastels & bright	Muted Rainbow	Arch-painted backdrop frames the cake
Crisp whites & creams	Minimalist Monochrome	Bare wooden high chair adds texture
Strawberry reds & pinks	Berry Sweet	Gingham high chair banner ties theme

Quick Guest Essentials

Guests	Coffee servings	Small party favors
10	10 cups	10 favors
15	15 cups	15 favors
20	20 cups	20 favors

Frame the end time positively on invitations by mentioning the strict afternoon nap.

Party Notes

Enjoy a well-deserved slice of leftover cake in total peace once they are asleep.