

THE BOSTON
Parents' Paper

FREE

2007 **Best** OF THE **Best**

■ **Family Favorites**

Great Places to Go with Kids in Tow

■ **Freebies!**

Fun on the Cheap

■ **Family Advocates**

Everyday Heroes for Local Families

You Say It's Your Birthday?

Favorite Birthday Party Destination

The Clayroom

72 South St., Jamaica Plain, 617-522-7474
1408 Beacon St., Brookline, 617-566-7575
29 Main St., Natick, 508-651-2318
930 Main St., Walpole, 508-660-1110
www.clayroom.com

The perfect to-do at a kids' birthday party? A special activity that little ones love – just not in your house where you'd be responsible for the planning and cleanup! That's why the Clayroom is a great pick for birthday party fun. Guests can each pick and paint a cool ceramic piece. After all the creative fun, everyone has a unique take-home item that's better than any old goodie bag!

Another Great Pick...

Got a 'tween or teen who would love a cool birthday celebration, but is too mature for most kid-party spots? Check out a **5 W!TS TOMB** adventure party (186 Brookline Ave., Boston, 617-375-WITS; www.5-wits.com). Kids age 9 and older can participate in this interactive expedition set in ancient Egypt.

Favorite Birthday Cake

Rosie's Bakery

Multiple locations
617-491-9488
rosiesbakery.com

Party Favors

1356 Beacon St., Brookline
617-566-3330
partyfavorbrookline.com

This year, spring for a birthday cake that not only looks festive, but is made of only the best ingredients, and is good enough to please an adult palate as well as the birthday child. **Rosie's** is renowned for full-on sugary, buttery goodness, and a birthday cake from this Hub treasure will be remembered all year. Just try to pick from these tempting flavors: four-layer black and white, Cold Fudge Sundae, and flourless Chocolate Delirium. If you want to wow your birthday child with a cake topped with frosting artistry, look to the delectably sweet masterpieces at **Party Favors** in Brookline. Cakes designed as carnivals, castles, creatures, or just about anything you can dream up are available.

Favorite Party Supply Store

iParty

Multiple Locations
iparty.com

Creative types can whip up cakes with gum-paste decorations, make paper mache piñatas, and craft unique goodie bags, but most of us need a reliable party store that stocks everything today's kiddie bashes require. iParty is the perfect resource for invitations and thank-you notes, balloons, paper goods, cake toppers, games, banners, and goodie bags and the goodies that go in them. The stores stock dozens pop culture themes, from Sesame Street to Harry Potter, and there are also plenty of non-commercial choices, such as sports and birthday magic.

Another Great Pick ...

Beware: there is temptation around every corner at **Party Favors** (1356 Beacon St., Brookline, 617-566-330; partyfavorbrookline.com). You may go in for cute kid-party paper goods, but you won't leave without checking out their gift selection, their pretty napkins and their paper products for grown-up parties.

P.S. We're never able to leave without buying one of their spectacular cupcakes – are you?

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