

# Large Event Tips & Tricks

1. Find a space that suits your needs. If you want to invite 50 people a church, recreation center or school may be your best bet. If you are doing a smaller group, your own home may be just fine.
2. Pick a date. Stick with that date even if you feel like no one is able to come that day. They will come. Trust me.
3. If possible divide the time into two sessions. People like knowing it is a come when it is the easiest for them type of thing. Four hours of a service project looks great divided into two 2 hour sessions. For example 1st session can go from 10-12 then an hour break in between (where people can keep working if they want). Then an afternoon session between 1-3 is great for anyone who couldn't make the first. However, if all you've got is 90 minutes total, that is just as good.
4. Advertising is everything. Use all the avenues you have to advertise your event. Set up an event in Facebook or evite then email all the people you would want to be involved. Flyers are available through Teeny Tears if you would like to publicize using those. Let them know they can bring friends or family along to participate. The more the merrier.
5. If you have local angel mom groups invite them along. We can all heal by sewing diapers.
6. Tell people in every way you can that they do not have to sew to participate. Most people will tell you they can't come, but never say it is because they can't sew. Make it known that if they can run scissors or an iron they can totally help.
7. Promote one step below obnoxious. Send out reminders that the day is 10 days....5 days...tomorrow away. Make sure you fully explain what you are doing in all of your promoting with images, flyers and the reason why YOU are choosing to make these fantastic diapers.
8. Invite everyone to bring a yard, or two of flannel fabric to the event. Walking away with fabric to use later is totally ok. The last thing you want to have is a shortage of fabric.
9. Invite them to bring their own scissors marked with their name. Scissors are super important. Asking a few friends to bring an iron and ironing board is also an option to having multiple irons available.
10. Food is not mandatory, but a welcomed thing. People want to get up and get their wiggles out and what better way to do that then around a delightful array of small finger foods. Cookies, water and fruit are a great choice.
11. Involve everyone. Kids are actually a great resource to do the less glamorous jobs. Use them as runners between stations or have them separate and sort diapers as they come off the last step of the assembly line. I think anyone over the age of 6 is totally capable of helping in some way.
12. Have a few yards of fabric already cut into diapers so you can have your sewers start when they get there. People will trickle in slowly and there is nothing better

than having the welcome sound of people humming away on their machines to encourage and rally the troops.

13. Set up your event in stations. (a) Pattern tracing & diaper cutting (b) First diaper sew (c) Trimming and turning (d) Ironing (e) Finishing stitch sewing (f) Sorting, Pairing & Pinning diapers.
  - a. Make a giant cutting table (if possible) with large banquet tables or small tables pushed together. The bigger the better. Fabric has a tendency to take up a lot of space. In the center of the table put scissors that people have brought, sharpie markers for tracing and 8-10 of each diaper pattern (large and small). Where possible have the patterns out of a thick cardstock or cardboard. Shoe boxes are a great material to cut patterns out of. If people feel comfortable with tracing and cutting this is the place for them. The goal is always to get the most out of each yard of fabric. A little trick I like is to fold the fabric “right sides together” so once they are cut they are ready to sew.
  - b. Have half your sewing station set up for the first round of sewing and the second half to do the finish sewing. If possible provide white thread for all the sewers. Have a few examples that you have sewn in advance showing the ¼” sewing allowance from the side of the diaper. I recommend sewing the examples in a dark thread so they can see how far away from the edge they need to sew. They also need to see that a 2” opening is left in the bottom. This opening is used for flipping the diaper inside out. A handy trick is having 2 or more power strips in the center of the table for all the machines to plug in to. This cuts down on the need for multiple extension cords and outlets.
  - c. As soon as there are diapers ready to trim and flip get those to a flipping station. I say double the amount of people you would think you need at this station because it is where the amount of finished diapers is greatly influenced. The diapers will need to be trimmed to make the diaper less bulky. After they are trimmed they are turned inside out and every little nook and cranny needs to be pushed out so the diaper lies fairly flat. Popsicle sticks are a great way to push those pesky corners out.
  - d. These would then move to the ironing station which is usually made up of 3-4 ironing boards and irons. This is a great place to make sure all the diapers are symmetrical and uniform. Once pressed they are ready for the final step.
  - e. Finish sewing is the best part of the job because you get to see the final product. A stitch is used to close the hole on the diapers and finishes them with a professional look.
  - f. Once they are finish stitched you can have people separating them by gender colors, neutral colors and size. You can have them pin the diapers using a standard #2 safety pin or that can be done right before packaging.

14. Another trick is having a few people who are willing to be there to answer any questions. Have them watch the tutorial available on the [Teeney Tears](#) website to familiarize themselves with the process. Then [you don't have to be everywhere all at once.](#)

15. Enjoy yourself. If you want to sit down and sew or cut or iron DO IT. You will be happy that you got to share the experience with everyone [around you.](#)

16. TAKE PICTURES OF THE EVENT!! We love to support all of our diaper creators. We want to spotlight you and let people know it can be done. You don't have to take the pictures. Find someone who loves to do that kind of thing and have them take them while everyone works.

If you have any other questions or need additional help you can contact Vanessa via email. [vanessa.teenytears@gmail.com](mailto:vanessa.teenytears@gmail.com)