

Small Event Tips & Tricks

1. Most small events are held in a home. These events are usually for a group of 5-10 people and normally do not need much logistical set up.
2. Pick a date. Stick with that date if you have the majority of people available to attend, otherwise find a date that works best. With a small event you want to make sure you have enough hands to work on each step at the same time.
3. Normally 90 minutes is average for this type of event, but that is totally at your discretion.
4. To advertise for this event you can use flyers provided by Teeny Tears, email close family and friends or set up a group event using social media websites (Facebook). A reminder email, text or call is a good way to know how many people will be attending.
5. If you feel comfortable invite other angel moms that you may know or want to know better. We can all heal by sewing diapers.
6. Tell people in every way you can that they do not have to sew to participate. Keep in mind you will need at least 2-3 people who can sew at the event if you would like to complete diapers. People often say they cannot attend because they assume they must sew. Make it known that if they can run scissors and an iron they are more than qualified to participate.
7. Invite everyone to bring a yard or two of flannel fabric to the event. Having fabric to use later for more diapers is much better than having a fabric shortage.
8. Invite them to bring their own scissors marked with their name. Scissors are very important. Since it is a small event one ironing board and iron should be sufficient. If you do not have one, see if someone can provide one for the event.
9. Food is not mandatory, but a welcomed thing. Being able to visit, snack and have a good time is a great environment to create these diapers in. Small finger foods like cookies and fruit are a great choice.
10. Rewarding your participants with a small door prize has been used at diapering events. Maybe just a small gift of thanks.
11. If your space allows involve children. Kids are actually a great resource to do the less glamorous jobs. They don't mind moving diapers from one station to another and they almost always love to count, sort and pair up diapers after they are sewn. 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. You will most likely have your event contained in one room. Make sure you set up a good sturdy table that a few sewing machines can share. Put them near outlets so you cut down on the use of multiple extension cords. If you have the room, cutting out diapers on a table is sometimes easier than the floor, but the

floor is just as good. One of the benefits to a small event is the opportunity to visit with everyone at the event while you work.

14. A few tips and tricks to give the people cutting out diapers are to have them turn the fabric “right sides together” so they are ready to be sewed as soon as they are cut. Laying the patterns directly on the fabric and tracing as many as you can fit on the fabric is the best method we have found. Trace both the large and small diapers then cut out. You can have your patterns on a heavy card stock or cardboard. Shoeboxes are a great material to cut patterns out of.
15. Have half your sewing team 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.
16. You will want to have another group of people ready to trim and flip the diapers when they come off the sewing machines. This is where things usually bottleneck. Put as many people as you can on this step. . 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.
17. After trimming and flipping they head over to the iron where they all the edges are pressed. This is a great place to make sure all the diapers are symmetrical and uniform. Once they are pressed and checked onto the final step.
18. This is where the other half of your sewing team will do the finish sewing. I think it 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 the entire diaper with a professional look.
19. 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.
20. With such a small group encourage them to check out the tutorial available on the Teeny Tears website before they come to get a basic feel for the process.
21. 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.
22. 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.

For any questions or additional event support, please email our event specialist Vanessa at vanessa.teenytears@gmail.com