

Book title: *If You Give a Pig a Party*

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Supplies for activities needed:

- Balloons
- Coloring utensils: colored pencils, markers, crayons, etc
- Paper
- An adult to help blow balloons (opt.)

Activity Name: **Balloon Activity**

- School Readiness Outcomes (SRO) goals met:
 - This activity will help the child recognize similarities and differences between sizes and colors of the balloons and/or their drawings of balloons (pg. 18).
 - The child should be able to sort similar balloons and/or balloon drawings by color and/or sizes into their own separate categories/piles (pg 19).
 - The child should be able to negotiate social conflicts by asking an adult for help if needed when tying their balloon (pg 16).
- Instructions for using real balloons
 1. First, have the child gather their supplies needed for this activity. The child will need balloons to blow up, at least 6-9 balloons. An adult may or may not be needed to help tie the balloon in the end and to supervise the child during the balloon process.
 2. Next, the balloon should be slightly stretched out to be able to be blown up nicely. Stretch the balloon about 4-5 times. Repeat on each balloon that is being used for the activity.
 3. The balloons will need to be blown up in various sizes. We would like you to blow up large, medium, and small balloons. We estimate about 2-3 of each size would be okay. When

blowing up the large balloons, make sure they do not get too big or they will pop! Additionally, have the child take their time blowing up the balloons as this takes a lot of air! Take deep, slow breaths to not overwhelm the lungs of the child. As the balloon is being blown, make sure to pinch the end of the balloon tight when taking breaks to make sure none of the air comes out of the balloon.

4. Once all the desired balloons are blown up, one at a time, they will all need to be tied. An easier way to tie the balloon is to pinch the opening of the balloon closed, with one hand, so no air will come out. The remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 1 inch “neck” of the balloon will be stretched with the other hand. The “neck” will be fully wrapped around 2-3 fingers (preferably the pointer finger and the middle finger), then tucked back through, in between the two fingers. The “lip” of the balloon needs to be pulled through completely to properly finish tying the balloon. An adult most likely will need to help tie the balloons, this may be a complicated task for children.
5. After all the balloons have been blown up and tied, the child will need to compare their sizes and colors of their balloons! First, have the child make 3 separate piles of balloons by size: large, medium, and small. Have the child explain why they are different sizes and why they were put into each pile. Have them share similarities and differences of the sizes.
6. After the balloons have been separated by size, next, have the child sort the balloons by color. The piles will vary in number, because of the color(s) of balloons used in the activity. Have the child explain why the balloons are separated the way they are and their similarities and differences.

- Extension Activity Ideas

- Prior to blowing up the balloon, have the child take a guess at how many breaths it would take the child to blow up the balloon and how many breaths it took an adult to blow up the balloon. These two numbers can be compared and contrasted. Who took more breaths and who took less breaths to blow up their balloon? Explain the similarities and differences!
- Instructions for using balloon drawings
 1. First, the child will need to grab their supplies. They will need coloring utensils and paper.
 2. Next, the child will need to draw various sizes of balloons and have some balloons drawn with different colors. The child can use more than one page to draw their balloons on.
 3. After the balloons are drawn, first compare the balloons by sizes. Sizes can be separated into large, medium, and small balloons. Ask the child why they are separated the way they are.
 4. Next, the balloons can be re-sorted into categories by color. Have the child explain why they are separated into these specific piles. Do they share the same pattern? What colors match and what don't match, etc?



