

Panicked Parenting: DIY Party Invitations

Every year, I say I'm going to do it different "next year" – then when next year gets here, I recreate the wheel. This year is no different. I'd like to say that I had this DIY party invitation planned weeks in advance. Honestly, I totally lost track of time left to purchase ready made invitations. So when I realized that my child's birthday party was the weekend after I returned from an overseas trip and a few days before the winter break, I had a small heart attack. Ok, a huge heart attack. I became the panicked parent, the one who was buckling under pressure to have invitations ready a full month before the party. I didn't have time to order a cool photocard online and didn't have time to get to the store for the cute little fill-in-the-blank invitations. So I decided to try my hand at a DIY party invitation. After a few attempts at an origami party invitation, I found an easier solution.



Google + free cards to the rescue.

After a few minutes Googling for "free kids birthday invitation" online, I discovered [Greetings Island](http://www.greetingsisland.com/). I ransacked our craft supplies and found what I needed. Since I didn't have envelopes handy, I decided to make it an all-in-one invitation.

- cardstock (we had size A4 & I used several complementary colors)
- papercutter (I can't cut straight lines)
- craft scissors
- glue (glue stick works best)

- hole punch
- washi tape
- ribbon (I used curling ribbon)

Here's what I did:

1. After I finished my invitation design in Greetings Island, I downloaded it and also printed it 2 per page on regular printer paper. This invitation was square and I had to print out several sheets for the number of invitations that were going out to her class and friends.
2. Cut out the invitations, using either a paper cutter or scrapbook scissors (I used a wavy design).
3. Use a paper cutter to cut each sheet of cardstock in half, on the long side.
4. Glue the square invitation on the top part of each half.
5. Fold bottom half up to cover the party information (or whatever looks good for your invitation). This is a really flexible all-in-one design.
6. Use washi tape to seal both sides of the bottom flap.
7. Punch 2 holes at the top of the invitation and use a length of ribbon for a bowtie as an accent.
8. Voila, you're done.

They turned out really cute, didn't they? My child loved them and when she came home needing a couple more, it didn't take more than a few minutes to make a few more.

Note: It took me about 10-12 minutes to make 6 cards, from start to finish.