

To Creche the Wedding or Not?

It's one of the hardest decisions you'll have to make when planning a wedding - to invite children or not? However, there is no right or wrong answer. Some friends will be delighted to leave their little darlings at home, while others may be somewhat less than enthused.

If children are on the guest list then why not a hire a wedding nanny to keep them entertained throughout the day? An idea and resource that is often left off most wedding checklists and out of budgets, hiring a crèche or nanny for your wedding day can be a real saviour - children get to be part of the day, while mum and dad get to drink their wine and eat their cake child-free.

Stephanie Wallis, director of Safe and Sound Mobile Crèches, a nanny service available for weddings and events which works with some of East Anglia's leading venues, says: "There is a pressure to have children at a wedding, but you have to do what you want, and decide how it works for you."

From the tiniest of tots to tumultuous 10 year olds, Safe and Sound Mobile Crèches caters for all ages and child numbers. The number of staff on the day depends on the number of children, and entertainment is varied to suit age groups.



Stephanie adds: "It's all about the logistics - the team, the equipment and the children. A two-year-old will scream, a five-year-old will run around and want attention, while a 10-year-old may be off climbing a tree - children will have an impact on the day. Our services stop parents being absent from the ceremony or speeches and it lets them enjoy their day too."

The company takes a production like approach to its care and offers a full service taking into consideration the wedding schedule and the brides suggestions. Each service is tailored to individual needs and venues.

"The service is completely flexible for day or night," explains Stephanie. "I can walk down the aisle with little ones, organise when and where children eat, look after them during speeches or provide an evening crèche. We can have eight year olds playing football, while another room is full of children watching a movie."

"Our venues recommend us as a service so it's important we take care of that venue. Some have antiques, while others may have water and lakes. During a wedding parents are busy socialising and it's difficult to keep eyes on children - we're there to help."

As well as providing fun entertainment, Stephanie has recently added the addition of Boutique Booths, a photo booth full of props and creativity for children. If this is starting to sound like the answer to all your wedding problems, it's time to get booking. Stephanie and her team can be booked up to two years in advance.

If you're nervous about how your guest might react, don't worry, Stephanie says: "Some parents do raise concerns but it's not about taking children away. If you're thinking of hiring a nanny for your big day, ask for permission on the invitation. I always provide my details and happily answer any questions parents may have."

For more details visit

www.safeandsoundmobilecreches.com