

# who could be late for very important date?!

photography by: Honour Hiers



# this

Gracyn Elizabeth Parziale celebrated her first birthday with a party that fit her to a “tea.” Party planners Rogers & Gala Creative Partners dreamed up a Mad Hatter’s Tea Party for 12 little boy and girls. They set the scene by transforming the exterior of the Parziale’s home in South Charlotte into a colorful wonderland festooned with purple, lime-green and tangerine balloons. But the main attraction was the front door. There, instead of falling down a rabbit hole, these children were ushered into the party by the Mad Hatter herself – played by Rogers & Gala co-owner Angela Gala.



Once inside the house, the children moved into the living room, where purple and green satin linens covered little tables and chairs. Elements had created floral centerpieces, consisting of candy orchids, carnations and little button mums, surrounded by gumballs and Hershey KISSES®, for each table. The kids sat down for a cup of tea (actually “pepper punch”) before heading on up to Gracyn’s room to play. The game? Dress up, of course – no tea party is complete without it! Little boys looked charming dressed in cowboy hats, cloaks, masks and crowns, while the girls were styling in their tutus and boas.



Dressed up and ready to go, the party moved outdoors for a game of croquet. While the croquet match in *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* featured live pink flamingos used as mallets, Gracyn’s guests were a bit more civilized. They used inflatable flamingos to hit orange and purple balls (in lieu of live hedgehogs). Alas, the 1-, 2- and 3-year-olds quickly discovered a new use for their mallets and ran around smacking the Mad Hatter ... thank goodness the flamingos were inflatable!

Hungry and exhausted from playing, the children returned inside for a feast fit for little kings and queens. Lime and tangerine-colored carnations and spider mum balls hung from the chandelier, above a delectable spread. Elizabeth tearoom La-tea-da’s provided teapot- and heart-shaped turkey sandwiches, orange slices and orange and purple flower-shaped sugar cookies. After the children devoured their treats, it was time to sing to the birthday girl.

Edible Art had created a sumptuous teapot birthday cake with separate sugar- and creamer-shaped cakes. Gracyn blew out her candle (with a little help from Mom) on the creamer cake, and each child received a miniature teacup cake resembling the teapot. Plenty of mothers were on hand to help the children who could not finish eating their cakes!

After a little more playtime, this trip to Wonderland came to an end. The children, however, went home with delightful gift boxes containing a copy of *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* ... proof that this Friday afternoon was not just a dream! ● ~kds

**Event Planners:**  
*Rogers and Gala Creative Partners, Inc.*  
704.375.9431

**Catering & Dress up Clothes:**  
*La-tea-da’s* 704.372-9599

**Cake: Edible Art of Charlotte**  
704.342.2253

**Calligraphy:**  
*Lyncrist Calligraphy Studio*  
704.344.0070

**Invitations:**  
*Papitre at Morrocroft Village*  
704.364.4567

**Décor: Elements**  
704.377.3433

**Balloons:**  
*Artistic Illusions*  
704.643.0504