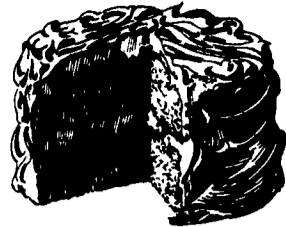


Home On The Range



You're Invited... To A Birthday Party

Children love parties, especially birthday parties. And, the party that will be remembered long after the traditional cake and ice cream is the party you've created with love and imagination.

The very best parties have a theme, and here's where your child will definitely have an opinion. Will it be a safari? A circus? Dinosaurs? Or, the latest movie character? Put your imagination to work as you plan the invitation, decorations, entertainment, even the menu.

- **Make the invitation unique.** If your theme is a "day at the zoo," use animal postcards you can buy at the zoo gift shop. An invitation that will be hand-delivered can take the form of a large animal-shaped butter cookie. Use colored decorator's icing to write the date, time, and place.

- **Be sure the decorations carry out the theme.** Borrow your child's stuffed animals and add brightly colored balloons and streamers. If you're artistic, use colored construction paper and felt tip pens to make animal heads out of balloons. They'll make great favors. A tape or record with animal noises playing in the background will add to the atmosphere.

- **Start the party as soon as the first guest arrives.** It's a good idea to plan an opening activity because not all of the children will arrive at the same time. Arts and crafts work well here. Then, when everyone is finished, you can begin the games.

- **Be creative with games.** Three and four-year-olds enjoy simple games with a new twist — like a banana (instead of an egg) toss or pin the trunk on the elephant. Five and six-year-olds are ready for a safari treasure hunt. Whatever the game, don't forget the prize — for everyone!

- **Make the food special.** Children delight in food that takes on new forms.

Parrot Punch, created by the American Dairy Association, has a bright green color. Lime sherbet, milk, and frozen limeade concentrate are blended until smooth, then topped with lemon-lime soda

for a fizzy finish. Fruit perched on the rim of the glass resembles the parrot's colorful feathers.

No kid will be able to resist the "Beary" Chocolate Birthday Cake. It's simple to make because it uses a chocolate cake mix. Yogurt added to the mix keeps this bear moist and tender even if you bake it a day ahead. Frost with a simple buttercream frosting and decorate with candies.

To expand the menu, offer Giraffe Grilled Cheese (use animal-shaped cookie cutters to cut the whole wheat bread and American cheese slices) and monkey nibbles (assorted raw vegetables, apple wedges and seedless grapes). The sandwiches can be assembled ahead and refrigerated to be cooked at the last minute.

- **Ending the party on a happy note.** When it's time to say goodbye and thank you, let the birthday child hand each guest a goody bag. Colorful tote bags decorated with animal stickers can hold a zoo-full of loot — animal erasers, stickers, a decorated animal-shaped butter cookie, a book, and a pair of funny sun glasses.

EDIBLE SNOWMAN

Materials:

- 3 large marshmallows
- 6 small marshmallows
- 1 Hershey Kiss
- 8 chocolate chips
- 5 toothpicks

Procedure:

For body:

Using two toothpicks, fasten together the large marshmallows for the body.

For hat:

Insert one end of a half toothpick into the Hershey Kiss and the other end into the "head."

For arms:

Insert toothpick with three small marshmallows into the middle large marshmallow.

Facial Features and Buttons: use chocolate chips to form facial features and buttons.

Denise Wenger
Mifflintown



"Beary" Chocolate Birthday Cake, Parrot Punch, and Giraffe Grilled Cheese will delight young guests at the "Day at the Zoo" party.

CLOWN CAKE

½ gallon vanilla ice cream, softened

½ gallon Neapolitan ice cream, softened

Maraschino cherries

Gum drops

Sweetened whipped cream

Line a 9-inch round cake pan and an 8-inch square cake pan with aluminum foil, letting edges

extend beyond edges of pans. Pack vanilla ice cream in round pan, Neapolitan in square pan. Freeze several hours or overnight. To form clown, follow diagrams below. Place on large tray or foil-covered board (clown is approximately 9x16-inches). Decorate face with gumdrops rolled out on

sugared surface and then cut to form eyebrows and mouth. Use half of a gumdrop for each eye. Use cherries for nose and to decorate hat. Pipe whipped cream through a pastry tube fitted with a fluted tip to form bottom of hat and knot on bow tie. Return to freezer for several hours before serving.

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Win A Prize For Your Favorite Dairy Recipe

Lancaster Farming celebrates June Dairy Month by offering cow-mania prizes for your favorite recipe using at least one dairy product such as butter, milk, cream, cheese, yogurt, or ice cream. It may be a recipe for a main dish, dessert, salad, beverage, snack, bread, soup, appetizer, or whatever you desire.

To enter the drawing, send only one recipe with your name, complete address, and phone number. Please include several paragraphs about your farm, family, interests, or other tidbits of information. Although it is not required, we especially appreciate receiving a picture of you or your family with your entry.

Send your recipe (one per family) immediately. Your entry must be postmarked by May 30 to be eligible for the drawing.

Send your entry to Lou Ann Good, Lancaster Farming Dairy Drawing, P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522.



Create a soldier with ice cream, cones, cookie, and candy toppings. Photo by American Dairy Association.

Featured Recipe

Kids cones are fun to make for a children's party. With a supply of vanilla ice cream, some flat-bottom cones and cookie and candy decorations, you can loose creativity. Here are some ideas from the American Dairy Association to get you started.

First, place large scoops of vanilla ice cream on the number of cones desired.

For soldier: Invert colored flat-bottom cone on ice cream for hat. Cut chocolate wafer cookie in half; use half for visor of hat. Use black licorice shoestring candy for chin strap, red cinnamon candies for eyes and nose and red shoestring candy for mouth. Use pieces of hard candy for ears.

For butterfly: Cut a chocolate wafer cookie (or brown edge wafer, striped shortbread, etc.) in half. Arrange as wings on ice cream by pressing curved edge of each half into ice cream at 45 degree angle. Use red cinnamon candies or other small candies for eyes and pieces of candy shoestring for antennae. Cookie may be decorated with tube of prepared frosting piped through tip with small hole.

For candy flowers, fruit: Roll out large gumdrops on sugared surface. Cut into petals for flower. Arrange on ice cream to form flower. Use small piece of candy for center. Cut green gumdrops to form leaves and stem. Or cut into fruit shape, such as an apple. Use green for stem and leaves.