



101 WAYS TO GUARANTEE YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY ABSOLUTLY ROCKS!

In the following pages you will find over 100 ideas I've seen used at the scores of birthday parties I've attended, included you'll find recipes, check lists, templates and tons of other useful information to help make your child's birthday party the best ever!

If you have any questions or if I can be of service to you, please call me anytime.

Enjoy !

MAGIC FRED
603-867-4093



Table of Contents

Page 3 : First Things First

Page 4: 6 Sure Fire Ways to Get Your Guests to Arrive on Time

Page 5: You Can't go Wrong with a Good Theme

Page 8: At Home or Not at Home, That is the Question

Page 9: 10 No Stain Snack Ideas

Page 10: How Many Kids Should I Invite?

Page 10: How Many Kids Should I Expect?

Page 10: What if my Child's Birthday is in the Summer?

Page 11: What to Put in the Party Bags

Page 11: Make it Look Snazzy

Page 13: Give your Party a BIG Feel

Page 14: Tips on Hiring an Entertainer

Page 15: Where's the Best Place to Have the Entertainer Perform?

Page 15: Make it an Event to Remember

Page 16: Don't Have it ? Rent it!

Page 16: Party Games & Activities That Get Everyone Involved

Page 18: Other Party Ideas & Themes

Page 20: How to Keep the Party Going

Page 21: Common Mistakes Made by Party Planners

Page 22: Don't Forget the "After Party Things"

Page 23: Recipe Section

WWW.MAGICFREDSHOW.COM



So, you're hosting a birthday party and you want it to be the best ever? The following are over 100 tips, hints, themes, ideas and recipes to get you through your child's special day.

First Things First

Let's talk about the invitation. You can purchase just about any style of invitation at the store or you can use one of the templates I've supplied you with in this book. If you're having entertainment, ask them if they provide invitations. Computers make custom invitations easy & fun. Here are some unique ideas for computer users:

 Have the birthday child draw a picture, then scan it, fill in the required information (who, what, where, when, why, and RSVP information), print it out & send it.

 Design your own card around the party theme (you DO have a theme, right?—more on that later). There are many wonderful programs out there that can easily help you design your own unique invitation. No graphics or clipart? Try the free website www.canva.com. It's amazing what you can create for free on there.



6 Sure Fire Ways to Get Your Guests to Arrive on Time

One of the biggest problems that accompanies a birthday party is getting the guests to arrive on time. Here are some tips to get them there when you want them there!

- ⌚ Ask them to be prompt. It sounds simple enough, but the mere act of asking for promptness will assure that more guests will arrive on time. Remember the old adage... “ask and ye shall receive.”
- ⌚ Let them know what time the entertainment starts. Appeal to the needs and desires of the guests. Tell them that they'll miss something important and fun if they don't arrive on time. Simply state in your invitation something like “the entertainment will begin at 2:00 –you won't want to miss even a minute of this exciting event!”
- ⌚ Add the word “sharp” after the start time i.e.: 1:00 pm, sharp.
- ⌚ If the party starts at 1:30, have a drawing at 1:35 and give away a prize. Be sure to state this in your invitation. That's right – BRIBE your guests. It'll work!
- ⌚ Have the party start on the quarter hour (i.e. 1:15 or 1:45). Studies show that people arrive on time more often, for some reason, on the quarter hour –go figure!



You Can't Go Wrong With a Good Theme.

Having trouble coming up with a theme for your party? A theme is a must! Remember, I've been to 100's of birthday parties and the ones by far that are most successful and fun are the ones with a specific theme. Don't want to go with a "commercial" theme? **On a tight budget?** Here are some great non-commercial themes that cost next to nothing to put together:

Bungle in the Jungle – Haul out the kids' old stuffed animals and put them around the house in a jungle setting. On the invitation tell everyone to come dressed as their favorite jungle animal or in safari attire. Read "jungle like" stories, like "Where the Wild Things Are", and then, let the rumpus begin!

Dress Up – Why not put the clothes that are crammed in the back of your closet to good use? Pull out boxes of clothes, hats, shoes, etc. and see who can come up with the most creative outfit. Or for a fun game, blindfold the kids and have them dress themselves. The person who comes the closest to being dressed correctly, wins a prize.

'I'm Blue' – And we don't mean sad! Everything is blue! Have the guests come dressed in blue, serve blue food and blue drinks on blue plates and in blue cups. Do some sort of "blue" craft – or any color will work, let your child choose his or her favorite.





Themes (cont)

Karaoke or Sing Along – Everyone loves to sing, and what could be more fun than singing with a group of friends. Don't have a karaoke machine? Call a local "rental" place and they'll probably be able to help you.

All Girls Night – This is a great slumber party idea. Let the girls polish their fingernails and toenails, apply make-up and fix each other's hair. Maybe even call a local salon or beauty school and see if someone could come teach the girls some simple beauty and hair techniques. Or another option– load the girls up in the mini van and take them to a local beauty school Their prices are usually very inexpensive and there's always the possibility they would give you some sort of group discount.

All Boys Night – What could be more fun than a house full of boys? Get them set up with movies, basketball or hockey outside, video games and order a few pizzas and you're all set!

Carnival or Circus – this theme works especially well if you are hiring a clown or juggler. Be sure to tell the entertainer that you are having this type of theme.





Themes (cont)

OOH, it's Magic! – If you are hiring a magician, then make the whole party revolve around the magic theme. Use magic tricks as the party gifts and don't forget the obvious rabbits, top hats and magic wands for decorations. And, occasionally (if the magician's schedule permits) for an additional fee, the magician can even teach all of the kids a simple trick or two.

Pizza Party – but NOT at the pizza parlor. Let the kids make individual pizzas and that way each child can make their pizza exactly how they like. A recipe and ideas for various toppings can be found at the end of this book.

Any “profession” like fireman, policeman, rock star, fashion model, or sports hero can be made into a party theme.





At Home or Not at Home, That is the Question

Where do you want to have this “shindig”? The possibilities are almost endless, but here are a few suggestions:

The local pool – kids love to swim and many local swimming pools have party packages.

The Pizza Place

The Skating Rink

The Country Club

Your House -- (there are tips later in this book about snacks, games and many other ideas on how to make a party at home successful)

The YWCA or YMCA -- often times have party packages

Your Deck or Patio – this way you can have the party at home AND keep the mess & the crowd outside (HELPFUL TIP: If you are hiring professional entertainment, be sure to tell them the party is going to be held outside, an outside setting might not work for some acts like magicians or puppeteers, but it might be preferred for jugglers). Something to keep in mind is, having entertainment indoors will make it seem more special, if the rest of the party is outside.

The Moon – okay, this one may be a little too far in the future, but now that we’ve had our first space tourist...really, I was just seeing if you were paying attention (but why not have a “space theme”???)



10 "No-Strain" Snack Ideas.

So, you want to have the party at your home but are afraid of the mess? Here are 10 tasty and unique snack ideas the kids will love and that won't stain your carpet or furniture. And by the way, all the recipes for these tasty morsels can be found at the end of this book.

Mini Hamburger cookies, complete with "lettuce"

Puppy Chow

Stain-free (yet delicious) punch

Homemade Lemonade

Individual pizzas (the sauce might stain, use your judgement on this one – not recommended for little ones)

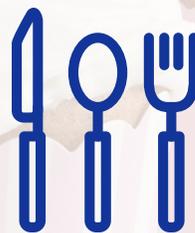
"Dirt" (worms are optional)

Indoor S'mores

"Finger" cookies (the kids will have a blast eating these cookies that look like REAL fingers)

Blonde Brownies

Party Trays - from the grocery store or a deli. These can be a lifesaver for a busy mom. Some good ideas are cookies or a fruit & cheese tray (don't laugh, fruit trays lots of times are the quickest thing to go at a kids party - no, really!!)





How Many Kids Should I Invite?

This is the age-old question. You want to have a nice turn out for your child's party, but on the other hand, do you want 100 people there? In most schools if you send the invitations to school through the kids' backpack you will need to invite all the kids in the class. If you choose to mail the invitations, have your child come up with a list of 10-20 names. Which brings us to the next question ...

How Many Kids Should I Expect?

Average class size is about 20-25. If you send invitations to all of them, expect about half to come. Of course if you are having a "family" party or are inviting people from the neighborhood this rule doesn't necessarily apply. Generally family members or neighbors you see on a regular basis, are better at "RSVP-ing" than others might be, so you'll have a more accurate count.

What If My Child's Birthday Is In The Summer?

This should not pose a problem. Summer parties can be more fun than school year parties. Generally kids choose to invite their classmates from the previous year, neighborhood friends or family members. Be sure to keep that classroom roster or get the addresses in advance so you're not caught by surprise.



What To Put In The "Party Bags"?

Party bags can be as simple or as extravagant as you'd like. You can usually purchase a large bag of mixed candy for around \$4 to \$6 at the grocery store or a party store. This is more than enough to put in 10-15 party bags. Balloons are always a big hit to put in party bags (but not for very young children, as they can be a choking hazard). Go down the aisle of any party store, discount center or dollar store and you'll get tons of ideas. Just a few examples would be, little note pads or address books, pens, pencils, crayons, plastic bugs, stick on jewelry or tattoos, key chains, activity books, or ANYTHING that glows in the dark is always a big hit. You can usually purchase all these items packaged in groups of 6 or 12 and some party stores sell in bulk.

Make It Look Snazzy

How can you make it LOOK like there's a party going on? DECORATE!! Here are some great decorating ideas to "party-up" your house:



Balloons – not only can they serve as a party decoration, but as party favors too. Have a HUGE bunch of balloons and as the kids leave, give each of them one (or two!). Kids love them and it's a great way to get them out of your house at the end of the party. You can either blow them up yourself with air, purchase them already inflated with helium from a local florist or party shop or call your local rental store and ask about a helium tank and inflate them yourself.



Streamers – Let's not underestimate the power of crepe paper! Can you think of any better way to say "Here's the Party!"?



Signs – Have a sign that says "Here's the Party!". Especially if your house (or wherever the party is being held) is hard to get to. Tie Balloons to street signs to guide the way.



Theme It Up – Go with the theme – whatever theme you choose scour your house and find anything that fits that theme and bring it out.



Party Plates – Grab a set of party plates and cutlery from any party supply store near you. You can get very cost effective party sets that do a great job in adding to the overall decor of the party. A lot of times you will be able to match your plates with the theme of your party if you do a little online searching.



Give Your Party A BIG Feel.

One of the best ways to make sure your child's party is a big success is to hire professional entertainment. Remember, as a rule, professional entertainers go to dozens, hundreds and yes, maybe even thousands of birthday parties a year. What better way to assure success than to hire someone who actually goes to birthday parties as the way they make their living? You'll be amazed at what a BIG feel having a professional entertainer at your party will make. Here are a few suggestions of types of entertainers to hire:



Magician



Clown



Juggler



Balloon Twister



Puppeteer or Ventriloquist



Story Teller

Hint: You should try and book your entertainment at least a month or two in advance



Tips On Hiring An Entertainer.

Great! You've made the decision to hire professional entertainment for your child's birthday party. Chances are, you've never done this before, so here are some hints to help you make a wise decision:

Don't be afraid to ask for references or letters of recommendation. If they refuse, or worse yet don't have any RUN, do not walk, but RUN away!!

Ask questions that are important to YOU, like, "Do you customize your show for each party?" "What things do I need to provide?" "Do you prefer working inside or outside?" just to list a few.

Make sure the performer is age appropriate. Be SURE to tell them what the age range of the kids at the party is going to be. Generally the performer will ask the ages of the kids, but just know, this is YOUR responsibility to inform them if they don't ask.

Don't let price be your decision maker. Find a performer who is good. Good AND cheapest seldom come in the same performer.

Can the performer offer extra services, like balloon twisting, face painting, party bags, teaching tricks, doing crafts, etc.



Where's the Best Place to Have the Entertainer Perform?

Generally it works best to have the entertainer in areas that are already set up for “viewing”, like in front of the entertainment center, or the fireplace. However, if the party is outside, or somewhere other than your home you'll want to discuss with the performer. Just make sure there is plenty of room for the performer and their props or equipment and room for assistants to help. Keep in mind, they'll generally have an idea what works best, so if you have any questions, just ask them.

Make it an Event to Remember

This is easy to do – just take LOTS of pictures. And if you have a Polaroid or a digital camera (& a color printer), here's a great gift idea to give each of the party goers: Take a photo of each guest with the birthday child. At the bottom of the photo write with marker their names and the date of the party. If you want to go one step further, you can make little “badges” out of construction paper and tape or glue the photo in it. (There's a template and instructions for this in the back of this book). This is a very cool, and relatively easy, take home gift for the guests, and if you have everything ready ahead of time, it takes no time at all to tape or glue the picture onto the badge.

Videotaping is also a great way to relive your party memories. Remember to use a tripod to keep it steady and make sure the battery is charged so you're not tethered to an electrical cord.



Don't Have it? Rent it!

You'd be surprised at what you can rent! Moon walks, real carnival games (like "froggy flip, soccer kick or dunk tanks), bean bag toss, ring toss, cotton candy machines, sno-cone machines just to name a few. Call your local rental place and see what they have. You can check in the yellow pages under "Party Supplies" for a list of suppliers. Many of these items are very reasonably priced.

Party Games & Activities That Get Everyone Involved

Water Balloon Toss or water gun wars (be sure to tell the parents on the invitation that the kids might get wet, so dress appropriately).

Bop-It![®] - This is a great game to play in small groups. It can be purchased at most toy stores for around \$10 to \$20.

Donut Swing – This is a much more sanitary, upright version of bobbing for apples. Each child is "assigned" their own donut. A parent hangs them from a tree with string so they are allowed to swing freely. The kids hold their hands behind their back and try to eat their donut. The first one done wins!

Decorate cookies or cupcakes - This is always a hit with children. Simple fun at it's best.

Lest we forget – What about some of OUR favorites? Simon Says, a limbo contest or pin the tail on the donkey. We loved these games as children; our kids will love them too.



Relay Races à Izzy-Dizzy Bat Race – This is definitely an outside game. Have a starting line and a finish line, about 20 feet apart, and you'll need several baseball bats. Split the kids into teams – the first child puts the top of the bat on the ground and bends over and puts their forehead on the end of the bat and turns around 3 times, stands up and runs to the finish line, tags a team mate and the team mate does the same thing. The first team to finish wins! Be sure to have the two teams spaced wide apart, because the kids tend to run crooked! This is a great video opportunity. It's hilarious to watch the kids do this fun and silly relay race.

Obstacle Course– Give prizes for best girl time and best boy time. Instead of using tires, use hula-hoops; don't forget to use the features of your yard, like the wading pool, the playscape, tree house or doghouse. You can make a GREAT obstacle course using these items, along with some saw horses and rope.

Remember to use things you have in your house. Ping-pong table, foosball, pool table, video games, swimming pool. Don't underestimate these things. Though your kids may have access to these things all the time, others may not, and watching other kids play them may inspire your kids to start using them again.

Tie in your entertainment with a craft idea, i.e., if you have a ventriloquist or puppeteer make sock puppets. A magician? Learn or make a 19 magic trick (there are countless books at the library on magic). If you have a clown, try face painting.



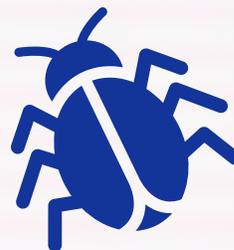
Other Party Ideas and Themes

Bugs

Aliens

Dragons

Pirates



Construction – this especially works well for smaller children. Put out blocks and trucks and the kids will have a blast!

Decades – Slick back the hair, paint a peace sign on your cheek or dig out the leg warmers - this party theme is as much fun for the parents as for the kids. Be sure to tell the parents they are welcome to dress up too.

Cowboy and Cowgirls – you can have a stickhorse rodeo with this theme. Making your own stick horse is as easy as cutting out a horse head from brown construction paper, poster board or cardboard. Have the kids decorate it, you glue or staple gun it onto a yard stick, and you have a pony. For time sake, have the head cut out prior to the party. If you want to get really “fancy” yarn makes a great mane! You can purchase pre-cut yarn, the kind used for latch hook – and this saves you lots of time.

Picnic – complete with checked table cloths. The “dirt” recipe (found in the back of the book) goes especially with this theme.



Other Party Ideas and Themes (cont.)

Wacky Hat – give a prize for the wackiest hat

Camouflage – this is a good idea for older (6-10) boys – then turn them loose in the yard and let them play army.

Ice Cream party – The kids can help you make homemade ice cream, or let the kids make their own sundaes. (A great homemade ice cream recipe is found in the recipe section in the back of this book).

Barbie – This is always a big hit with the girls

Horses

Arts & Crafts – go to any book store or craft shop and they'll have age-appropriate craft books for your children. This is a fun thing for the kids to do, plus they get to take a cool art project home with them.

Hawaiian – need we say more? This is one of the most popular themes, complete with leis and tiki torches.

The possibilities of party themes is endless. And as mentioned before, the parties that are MOST successful are those that have a theme.



How to Keep the Party Going

Okay, we have the theme, we've hired the entertainment, the invitations have gone out, we know what food we are serving, can you relax now? You bet! Why shouldn't you have fun at the party too? Here are a few simple tips to keep the party running on its own so you can have a good time too.

Don't rush things! Have a schedule in your mind, but be flexible. If the kids are having a good time in the moon walk, don't make them get out to sing songs.

Have everything prepared ahead of time. Then all you'll have to do is set it out and unwrap it.

Have drinks in a cooler, that way you aren't pouring juice or soft drinks every thirty seconds. The kids can just serve themselves.

Use disposable items whenever possible. This way you aren't in the kitchen washing dishes when the kids are opening gifts. (HELPFUL HINT— you can purchase disposable plates and cups centered around almost every theme listed in this book).

GET HELP! Don't try to do it all yourself. If someone offers to help, LET THEM! If your budget allows, hire someone to come in and help you. them.



Common Mistakes Made by Party Planners

Over scheduling – Don't try to "cram the party down their throats" and don't try to do too many things at the party. Most birthday parties last 2-3 hours. You need to allow time for the guests to arrive, the kids to get settled down, the entertainer to perform, the gifts to be opened the cake to be cut and eaten, pictures to be taken games to be played and parents to pick up their kids. Don't try to do 7 or 8 of the games listed in the book. Simply pick a couple that look interesting to you and that suit your needs best.

Scheduling against another event i.e. – other birthday parties, sporting events, vacations. Unfortunately these things can't be helped, but you need to be aware of these types of things when scheduling your party, especially those that may involve the kids you child most wants to attend.

Not having a back up plan – what if it rains??? Do YOU have a back up plan? If you have to move the party inside do you have room for it? One suggestion might be, if it rains and you were planning on having an outside party, as the parents are dropping their children off, mention to them that you are going to cut the party short by an hour or so. Be sure to have appropriate indoor games or movies for the kids to watch.

Doing everything last minute– Have a check list and use it!! (Conveniently, there's one in the back of this book).



Don't Forget the "After Party Things"

Be sure to have a big garbage can or bag out to throw away all the paper plates, napkins, cups and wrapping paper, so all you have to do is close it up and take it to the curb when it's over. We want this to be easy as possible on everyone involved.

Ask your kids to help you take down the decorations, for some odd reason kids seem to enjoy "destroying" things, so this should be right up their alley. And last but not least, a very simple thing that is so often overlooked – be sure your child sends out "Thank you" cards promptly. If your child is old enough, have him or her write them themselves. Most kidappropriate thank you cards just need to have the blanks filled in, so it shouldn't be a lot of writing.

If you're feeling really creative you can design them on the computer. A good idea, if you have a digital camera, is to include birthday party pictures on the thank you. Kids and parents alike think this is really cool.





RECIPES

“Hamburger” Cookies

You will need Vanilla wafer cookies, chocolate frosting, thin mint type cookies, red icing, yellow icing, flake coconut dyed with green food coloring. Optional items, white corn syrup and sesame seeds.

I’m sure you’ve probably figured out this process by now. It’s really very easy and a lot of fun. Take 2 of the vanilla wafer cookies (the buns), place a dab of chocolate frosting on the flat side of one of the cookies, place the mint cookie (the burger) on top of that, place the green coconut (lettuce) on top of the mint cookie (another dab of chocolate frosting will help it stick), put a little red & yellow icing (catsup & mustard) and then put the other vanilla wafer (flat side down) on top of that. There you go – a mini hamburger cookie. If you’d like to take this one step further, after assembling the “hamburgers” lightly brush the top of one of the “buns” with white corn syrup and sprinkle with sesame seeds.





“Puppy Chow”

- 1 Box Crispix Cereal
- 1 stick butter
- 12 ounces peanut butter
- 12 ounce package chocolate chips
- 1 pound bag of powdered sugar



Melt butter, peanut butter and chocolate chips together in the microwave. Pour cereal in a large bowl. Pour melted mixture over and mix well. Dump 1 pound bag of powdered sugar in a brown grocery bag and pour cereal mixture over it. Shake well!

Stain-free Punch

- 1 2-liter bottle 7-Up, Sprite or Citra
- 1 can Pineapple juice
- 1 1/2 gallon lemon, pineapple or orange sherbet

Pour the soda and juice in a punch bowl and mix – using an ice cream scoop, drop the sherbet into the punch bowl. An ice ring made of the juice and soda mixture works well to keep it cold.



Another Stain-free Punch

- 1 large can pineapple juice
- 2 large cans orange juice
- 2 cans frozen lemonade (made according to directions)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 quart water
- 1 2 liter bottle ginger ale

Boil sugar & water for 5 minutes. Mix all juices together and add sugar and water to them. Chill. Add soda immediately before serving.

Homemade Lemonade

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 2-3 teaspoons grated lemon rind
- 1 1/2 cups fresh lemon juice
- 5 cups cold water



combine sugar and boiling water. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Add lemon rind, lemon juice and water. Mix well and chill. Serve over ice. YUMMY!



Homemade Lemonade

— Take Two

1 1/2 cups sugar
2 1/2 cups water
6 lemons
2 oranges
zest of 1 orange
1 cup fresh mint



Bring sugar and water to a boil. Cook for 5 minutes and let cool. Add juice of lemons and oranges and orange zest. Pour over mint and let stand at least an hour. After an hour remove mint and mix 1/2 cup of mixture with 2/3 cup water. Serve over ice.

Individual Mini Pizzas

For the “crust” you can use any of these: tube biscuits, English muffins or plain bagels. If using biscuits, you’ll want to have the kids smash them down a bit to flatten them. (continued on the next page)



Spread any brand of pizza sauce on crust and let the kids put their own toppings on. Some suggestions are: hamburger, pepperoni, cheese, olives, anchovies (just kidding!), mushrooms – whatever you like! Place assembled pizzas on a large cookie sheet and place in a 350 degree oven. If using the English muffin or the bagel, you only need to cook until the cheese is melted and bubbly. If you are using the biscuit, you'll need to bake 10-12 minutes to get the biscuit completely done. Remember, be sure to have the kids smash the biscuit down a bit to cut down on baking time. Enjoy!

“Dirt”

- 1 package Oreos
- 12 ounces Cool Whip
- 8 ounces cream cheese – softened
- 1 stick margarine or butter – softened
- 2 cups milk (for pudding)
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 3 ounce package instant vanilla pudding
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

(continued on the next page)



Finely crush the Oreo's and place 1/2 in the bottom of an 11x17" pan. Mix the Cool Whip, cream cheese, powdered sugar and margarine or butter. Prepare pudding as directed and mix with Cool Whip mixture. Sprinkle with remaining Oreo's. Garnish with Gummy Worms! For added fun, why not use flower pots instead of a cake pan? You can even stick silk or plastic flowers in them as decoration until you're ready to serve it. The kids will think this is really cool!

“Indoor S'mores”

You will need graham crackers, marshmallows and chocolate bars. Place 1 marshmallow on 1/2 of a graham cracker and put in the microwave for 10-20 seconds (depending on your microwave), remove and immediately place 1/2 a chocolate bar on top of the marshmallow and the other 1/2 of the graham cracker on top of that and smooch it down. There you go, Indoor Smores!





“Finger” Cookies

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup crushed nuts
- 1 package slivered almonds

Cream together first 3 ingredients. Add the flour and the nuts. Roll into “finger” shapes and place a slivered almond in the end for a fingernail. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 8-10 minutes. After the fingers have cooled, put some red icing on the fingernail. Here’s a fun tip: If your child’s party is around Halloween, use green food coloring to dye the cookie dough green for “witch fingers”.

Blonde Brownies

- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup white chocolate chips & 1/4 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts (continued on the next page)



Cream together the butter & brown sugar. Beat in egg and vanilla. Combine flour, soda and salt and add to creamed mixture. Mix until just blended. Add white & chocolate chips and nuts. Stir until blended. Spread into a greased 8 inch square pan. Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 25 minutes. Let cool about 10 minutes before cutting. Everyone will gobble these babies up!

Homemade Ice Cream

As promised, here's the recipe for the BEST homemade chocolate ice cream in the entire world. Now this wouldn't fall into the no-stain category, but it's sooooo good, it might be worth the risk.

6-8 eggs

2 cans chocolate sweetened condensed milk (Eagle Brand makes this type)

1 pint Half and Half

1 pint whipping cream

Whole milk



Mix all of these together using your hand mixer until well blended and pour into the ice cream freezer. Fill the freezer the rest of the way with whole milk. Turn on the freezer (I'm assuming you have an electric freezer) and in about 20 or 30 minutes your tastebuds will be dancing. Now, if you 'want vanilla rather than chocolate (though I can't imagine why you would), use regular sweetened condensed milk and add 4-5 teaspoons of vanilla.

