

## Make Chocolate Covered Pretzels to Give as Gifts!

Before you drag your kids off to the mall to buy yet another useless gadget for Uncle Bill or tchotchke for Grandma, ask yourself what you want your kids to remember about gift giving. Do you envision them savoring childhood memories of plodding through the mall in a futile search for something—anything!—to buy for their beloved grandpa-who-has-everything just so they can see his polite smile as he opens yet another tie that he doesn't need? Or would you rather they remember time spent with loved ones and the satisfaction of giving a gift with real meaning? If you chose the latter, try cooking up this gift together. Not only will your kids learn about the joy of giving gifts straight from the heart, you'll get the added bonus of some extra family time together.

These treats are so simple, even very young children can help make them (just be sure the chocolate's not hot enough to burn tender little fingers). You can use any shape or size of pretzel—or a combination. Feel free to substitute dried fruit, fresh fruit, or cookies for the pretzels. And toss on some sprinkles if the mood strikes.

### What You Need:

- 1 bag large pretzels
- 1 10 to 12-ounce bag white chocolate chips
- Colored sprinkles

### What You Do:

Place chocolate chips in a microwave-safe dish and microwave on high for about 2 minutes. Stir chocolate and continue to microwave for 30- to 60-second intervals until chocolate is completely melted.

Place the melted chocolate and plates with different colored sprinkles on the counter. Dip pretzel sticks in chocolate to cover, then quickly roll in the colored sprinkles or decorating sugar. Lay covered pretzels on wax paper and let set completely, about 30 minutes. Place decorated pretzels in gift boxes layered with waxed paper and refrigerate until you're ready to take them to their recipients.

