

Back to School Party

It's that time of the year again! Celebrate the start of a new school year with a back to class bash. You can energize your young student and get her excited about the start of the school year with this party for her friends and neighborhood playmates. Create your own cute invites, have guests design their own homemade t-shirts, cook up a school themed menu, and play fun (and educational) games.

What You Need:

- Card stock, enough sheets for the amount of invites you will be handing out
- General craft supplies: crayons, markers, glitter glue, etc.
- Lined notebook paper
- Glue stick
- Plain white T-shirts, one for each guest
- Non-toxic fabric paints or markers
- Recycled materials: milk cartons, soda bottles, plastic bottle caps, cardboard boxes and tubes, etc.
- Glue and/or tape
- Yellow construction paper or paint
- School-themed snacks: apple-shaped cupcakes, school bus-shaped cake, notebook-themed brownies, alphabet-shaped cookies, etc.



What You Do:

1. First, make the invitations.
 - Fold a piece of 8- by 10-inch card stock in half vertically from top to bottom. Cut vertically up the center to create two invitations per sheet.
 - Decorate the front of each invitation to look like a notebook, using a real life example for reference. Personalize each one by adding the guests name and the word notebook. For example, "Matthew's Notebook".
 - Cut pieces of thin lined notebook paper to fit the inside of the invitation. Attach the notebook paper inside with a glue stick.
 - After the glue dries, write your party info for the guests to see. Make sure to include the reason for the party, date and time, place, and RSVP number or e-mail.
 - Hand deliver or place your mini-notebooks into envelopes and send out to guests.
2. For a craft, you can add to the excitement of the back to school bash with a fun-filled t-shirt craft that doubles as a cool takeaway.
 - Get all of your guests plain white shirts or ask them to bring their own.
 - Use non-toxic, fabric paints and/or markers to write the name of the school and year on the back.
 - Have each child create his or her own picture of the school on the front.
3. You can also have the kids construct their own school buses out of recycled materials.
 - Thoroughly wash and dry milk cartons, soda bottles, plastic bottle caps, cardboard boxes and tubes.
 - Set the materials on a workspace or community table along with glue and tape.
 - Invite the guests to piece together their own designs such as a milk carton on its side with bottle cap wheels.
 - Paint the buses with tempera or cover with yellow construction paper.
4. For snacks, there's myriad ways you can transform everyday food into back-to-school themed

fun.

- Write out your 'cafeteria selections' for all of the party goers to see using a chalkboard and multi-colored chalk.
- Try an array of sweets such as apple cupcakes, a school bus shaped cake, alphabet cookie shapes or notebook brownies.
- To create apple shaped cupcakes, bake up a mix of your favorite batter. Frost the cakes with red and/or green icing. Add a green stem with a cut sour apple licorice whip. Add the letter 'A' for apple on front with white icing.

5. Choose a few different games that are both fun and educational for your back to school bash!

Here are just a few suggestions, but see the rest of the site's [Activities](#) for more ideas!

- **Play Jeopardy!** Re-introduce your kids to their favorite subjects with a trivia game. Make note cards with questions in school subject categories such as math, science, social studies or language arts. Create category signs on construction paper and tape them to a wall. Give up to three guests at a time small bells to ring when answering questions. Assign point values based on the difficulty of the questions. Tally the totals to see who is the most ready for a return to school.
- **Play Back to School Charades!** Put a fun spin on back to school with an interactive game of charades. Brainstorm a few school-themed ideas that'd be fun to act out, such as: a schoolbus, a textbook, P.E. class, band teacher, librarian, bicycle, lunchbox and more. Write down each topic, throw it into a hat and let the acting begin.