A background image showing several ice cream cones. The cones are decorated with a thick layer of multi-colored sprinkles (red, yellow, green, blue, purple, white) around the top rim. The cones are arranged in a slightly overlapping manner, with some in the foreground and others in the background. The background is a light, neutral color.

LET'S GATHER WITH KIDS {AN ICE CREAM SUNDAE PARTY}

Now we're ready to take on hosting a gathering for kids! With a little planning, it can be a breeze to host a party that is exciting for children without being overwhelming for the adults. Besides, the delights of childhood are never too far from a mature person's happy place—cheery decorations, engaging activities, special prizes, and tempting treats along with permission to dive right in.

One of my family's favorite ways to gather kids or families together is with an ice cream sundae party. You can create instant conversation with an ice cream station as the main feature or pair this with a BBQ. Either way, it's perfect for both kids and adults alike. Doesn't everyone scream for ice cream?

Granted, a kid-friendly party might not be something you want to sign on for every week-end, but when you think of the many smiles from the day, you'll realize what a gift it is for kids to be kids and for adults to have some kid-like joy.

The Feast

A simple Sundae Party menu offering lots of topping choices is ideal for kids and all people who like sweet treats. The chocolate-dipped cones are irresistible and provide a homemade touch.

MENU

Ice cream or frozen yogurt

Cones
(sugar, waffle, and/or dipped)

SUGGESTED TOPPINGS

Crumbled candies

Crushed cookies

Fruit

Flavored syrups

Whipped cream

Nuts
(keep separate to be sensitive to those with nut allergies)

Dark chocolate, sea salt, toffee, and coconut for the adventurous

Featured Recipe

CHOCOLATE-DIPPED CONES

Ice cream cones
Sprinkles

Ghiradelli classic white baking chips
(11-ounce bag)

Melt chocolate in a small bowl in the microwave, stirring every 30 seconds or so until smooth. Dip your cones in the bowl of melted chocolate, and then roll them in a small bowl of sprinkles. Prop your cones upright in a cookie cooling rack or the ice cream cone box after cutting small x's to make slots to hold each cone. Allow to cool in the fridge for about 30 minutes.



SUNDAE STATION

To make sure your ice cream station is as adorable as you picture it and simple for your guests to create their ice cream cone masterpieces, plan ahead. Consider where to set it up, which toppings and flavors of ice cream to serve, what utensils guests will need to assemble and eat their sundaes, in what order to bring out the toppings, how to serve the ice cream, and where to seat your guests.

MAKE YOUR SUNDAE STATION A HIT

- ✦ Provide bowls for piling mile-high sundaes, as well as cones for those who love to add a little crunch.
- ✦ If you have a large group, create two stations to help with the traffic flow.
- ✦ Place a stack of baby wipes or damp hand towels nearby to take care of sticky hands and tables.
- ✦ Reduce the table mess by using plastic, oilcloth, easy-to-clean outdoor fabric, or patterned sheets to make simple DIY tablecloths.
- ✦ Designate a helper to assist with spills or refill ice cream as needed.
- ✦ Pre-scoop ice cream into small lidded jars or a single scoop into muffin pans lined with paper cupcake liners and keep frozen in an ice bucket until ready to serve.



ICE CREAM CREATION CONTEST

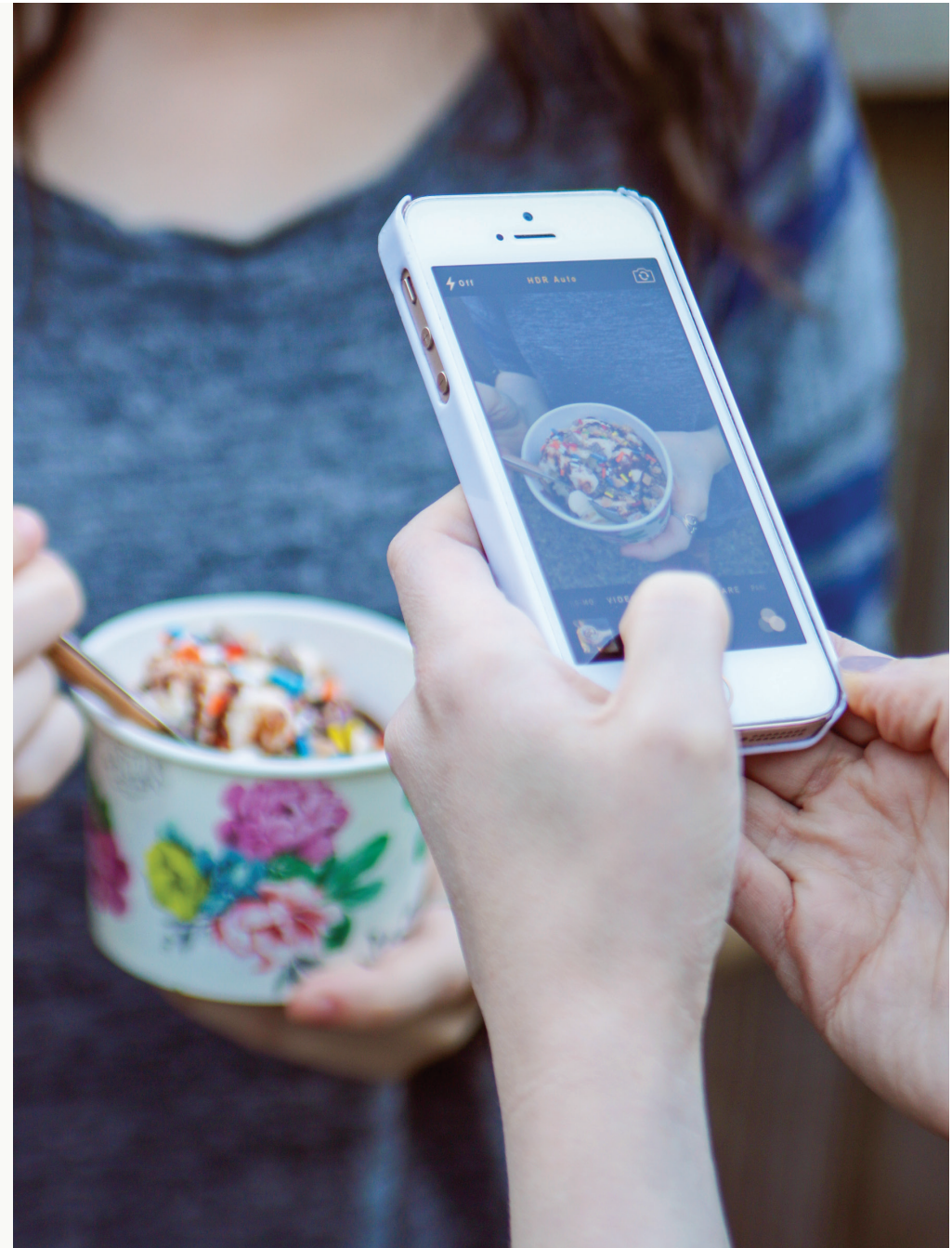
Use an instamatic camera, cell phone, or an iPad to capture pictures of each person's ice cream masterpiece. Make the sundae photos a conversation piece by announcing a friendly competition. Invite guests to cast their votes for the most creative, most colorful, most appealing, or most adventurous sundae. Give the winner a grab bag prize or an ice cream scooper as a trophy.

Write the guest's name on the back of the photo, display it on a photo board or a table during the event, and then send the photo home with the guest.



KRAFT PAPER KIDS' TABLE

Provide crayons, markers, and stickers for kids to draw on their own tablecloth. Doing this for the adults' tables as well is a great way to be sure everyone is entertained. Who knows who will want to express their inner artist or break into a game of hangman or tic-tac-toe?



DIY: BUBBLE STATION

It's amazing how bubbles invite kids to be happy and invite adults to be kids, even if just for an afternoon. Plan competitions to see who makes the coolest shapes, the biggest and smallest bubbles, and the most bubbles from one dip of the wand. Here is an easy make-your-own bubble recipe.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

1 cup light corn syrup

5 cups hot water


1 cup liquid dish soap
(try the blue-colored Dawn)

Bubble wands or pipe cleaners

Lidded glass bottle or container

Directions:

1. **Add** corn syrup to hot water. Whisk until the corn syrup is dissolved.
2. **Add** liquid dish soap slowly and whisk well.
3. **Make** as much mixture as necessary to fill your container.
4. **Let** the solution rest for a few hours before using it.
5. **Buy** bubble wands or bend pipe cleaners into cleverly shaped wands.

 **Simple tip!** Use a large glass beverage dispenser to easily refill paper cups with the bubble solution for the kids.

