



## Spread the Love - Party Planning and Etiquette Expert Shares Her Sweet Valentine's Day Tips and Ideas!

*Lisa Kothari's Guide to a Sweet Valentine's Day Celebration*

**Los Angeles, CA - October 2007** - As the excitement from the Winter holidays die down, **Valentine's Day** is the perfect opportunity to keep spreading the love with candy, balloons, and anything heart-shaped! For a dazzling Valentine's Day celebration, **Lisa Kothari**, author of every parent's indispensable guide "**Dear Peppers and Pollywogs...What Parents Want to Know About Planning Their Kids' Parties**", has put together some amazing tips and ideas that any parents' little love bugs - and wallet - are sure to enjoy!!

### **Hearts, Love-Bugs, and Chocolates Galore!!**

#### **FOR THE INVITATION:**

Use red construction paper, doilies, red pipe cleaners, and pink and red glitter to make large homemade hearts that can be delivered to your guests. Other ideas for decorating your heart-shaped invitations include using red hots, conversation hearts ("Be Mine"), and red licorice! If you are hand delivering, you can tie your invitations to red balloons to kick off the festive party!!

For an even more unique invitation, make a giant lady bug using black and red construction paper. On one side of the lady bug, write "*Love Bug, Lady Bug, are you red and round with black spots all over? If you look like me then won't you come and play at a Love Bug Party this Valentine's Day?*" Provide the rest of the details as well!



#### **FOR HEART-FILLED PARTY DECORATIONS:**

- Fill your room with red, pink, and pearly white balloons - include a few thematic Mylar balloons for added fun! Amongst the balloons, hang pink and red streamers and a banner that says "Happy Valentine's Day" for even more festivity!
- On your party tables, use a red table cover and sprinkle conversation hearts and Hershey Kisses as festive confetti. Don't forget to use pink, red, and white plates, napkins, and cups!
- For that extra special touch, draw hearts on your cups, or create a pre-dining activity for kids by placing white markers on the table for cup-decorating!
- Also, for more pizzazz, have a big stuffed teddy bear in the center of your table with balloons tied to one of his plush arms, and heart-shaped sunglasses at each place setting for the kids to wear!

#### **FOR THE CRAFTS:**

- Have the kids make their very own **Love Bugs**! Have red and black construction paper out - you can either have the red and black circles pre-cut for easy assembly, or have the children cut out the bug bodies and spots on their own. In addition, have markers, crayons, and glitter glue available for unique decorating!

- Another craft idea includes purchasing small clay pots and having the kids decorate them by painting on small love bugs. What's best is that these small pots can then be taken home as the goody from the party!

## MORE LOVEABLE ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR A SWEET VALENTINE'S DAY!

**GUESSING GAME:** Make some large tags with words on them that relate to Valentine's Day, such as "heart," "flower," "chocolate," etc. Place these name tags on the backs of the guests when they arrive to the party. Do not let the guest see the word on his or her back - the kids must guess the word by the clues that fellow guests give to them!

**CRAFTS:** Have the kids make their own Valentines! Provide all of the materials for them to design and decorate: paper, confetti, glitter glue, markers, crayons, etc.

Bake a batch of **heart-shaped cookies** and have the kids decorate with pink frosting and candy toppings!

## MORE GAMES...

- Play "**Pin the Bow on Cupid**"
- Have a **Heart Ring Toss** - make a large heart (about 25-30 inches) and decorate it with a face using craft items or candies. Fasten arrows around the perimeter of the heart to make it "stand out" for easy tossing. Make toss rings out of pipe cleaners, and have guests toss them on the giant heart. Those who get it around the target win a chocolate!
- Place Conversation Hearts into a jar, and have the kids guess the number!
- Hide Hershey's Kisses around the party area, and give the kids two minutes to find as many as they can!
- **Play Musical Hearts** - either make a red paper heart or use a stuffed animal "heart." Have the kids stand in a circle and when the music plays, pass the heart. When it stops, the person directly to the left of the person holding the heart is "out!!" The game continues until there is only one person holding the heart. Give the winner a small box of chocolates!
- Play **Can You Please be My Valentine, Please Smile**. Have the kids sit in a circle, and ask one guest to be "It." He or she must go up to a person in the circle and say this statement. The kid being asked must respond with: **No, I cannot be your Valentine, I cannot smile**. He or she must not smile in the least!! If he does, then he becomes "It" and the game continues!

## SWEET TREATS FOR A TASTY VALENTINE'S MENU:

- Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter to make small sandwiches, cut up fruits, and make red Jell-O Jigglers!
- Make **Valentine's Roll Ups**: wrap up lunch meat, lettuce, mustard and/or mayo, and a slice of cheese in a red-colored roasted red-pepper tortilla.
- Cook heart-shaped pizza with lots of yummy toppings - pepperoni and red pepper are two good Valentine's Day choices!
- Make **Valentine's Rice Krispie Pops**: prepare a batch of Rice Krispie treats, roll each treat into a heart and place a popsicle stick inside. Press on candy hearts or dip the treats in milk chocolate for an even sweeter touch!
- For a frothy Valentine's Day drink, make one package of cherry Kool-Aid and one package of strawberry Kool-Aid with sugar and water. Add one frozen can of orange juice and lemonade. Mix until the juices are thawed and add one quart of ginger ale.

## FOR THE GOODY BAGS!!

Make a **VALENTINE'S DAY PAPER CUP**. Use pink or red cups, or plain white cups that you have painted with pink or red paint. Cut out medium-sized hearts - enough for each goody cup. Line the hearts up against your cup and hole punch two sets of holes through both the heart and cup. Next, use pink, white or red ribbon to attach the heart to the cup. For a finishing touch, fill your festive cups with all types of sweet or sparkly Valentine's Day goodies: candy, a blinking heart necklace, heart stickers, lip gloss, etc!!

Alternatively, if the kids decorated the above-mentioned clay pots with love bugs, finish the pots off by filling them with chocolates that are wrapped in red and black foil!

For even more holiday party tips and ideas, check out **Lisa Kothari's** recently-released "**Dear Peppers and Pollywogs...What Parents Want to Know About Planning Their Kids' Parties**", available at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) for only \$9.95.

And before planning any sort of celebration be sure to visit Lisa's website at [www.PeppersPollywogs.com](http://www.PeppersPollywogs.com) for all essential components of creating a fabulous fiesta!! Lisa is available for interviews regarding any sort of party-planning subject. To set up an interview or to find out more about Lisa Kothari and her expertise, contact Lauren Glassberg or Kelly Anderson at Clover PR, [Lauren@CloverPR.com](mailto:Lauren@CloverPR.com), or call Clover PR at (818) 484-8664!