

**The Welcome Place: Porch Swings & Picnics**  
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## **Entertaining Ideas**

### **Keep it simple:**

- planned potluck [you don't have to do it all yourself & most guests would love to bring something]
- Tacos (every guest brings part of the fixings)
- a baked potato bar w/ salsa, butter, sour cream, shredded cheese, chopped steamed broccoli, bacon bits, etc.
- dessert only
- end of week sit-com/classic movies and pizza pitch-in party (homemade, if you're up for a mess; take-out if not) w/ another family
- Use that crock pot: Crock pot fajitas, homemade soups, Mexican cheese dip, roasts for sandwiches. . .
- keep "table talk" conversation starters on hand
- use music to bridge arrival time

### **Themed parties:**

- Christmas or spring time open house
- "It's a Wonderful Life" party
- Classic trivia party (i.e., Walton's, Andy Griffith, I Love Lucy, Little House on the Prairie)
- Bible night
- Academy Awards Night - formal & serve appetizers
- "Who's line is it anyway?"

### **Fun Favors for Guests:**

- votive candles
  - a small American flag & sparkler tied w/ curling ribbon for the fourth of July
  - napkin holders you make
  - a packet of "magazine envelopes" tied w/ raffia
  - a small bottle of bubbles for spring
  - a potpourri tart or sachet
  - a Christmas ornament (cookie cutters tied w/ gingham ribbon make great ones)
  - garage sale tea cups, if your party is for women only
  - a box of Crayons for little guests
  - rattles for baby showers
- dollar store finds for your theme