

Polka-dot Party!

Nothing says PARTY like polka-dots.

Here are some dotty ideas for throwing your own polka-dot party.

Nametags

Cut out three-inch circles of colored tag board and have the guests write the letters of their names on separate circles. Guests can decorate their circles with markers, stickers, sequins, etc. (Guests should write their names on the backs of all circles to avoid mix-up.)

With the guests in another room, a party helper hides the circles. Guests return and search for the letters of their own names. As each guest finishes, he or she helps someone else find her remaining letters.

Punch holes in the sides of each circle. Then use colored cord or yarn to string them, in the correct order, into a large necklace or door hanger. (Suggestion: Tie knots to keep the circles spaced about an inch apart.)

Dots and stripes placemats

Laminate a large sheet of colored construction paper for each guest. Cut strips of colored and/or patterned duct tape and encourage guests to create striped, plaid or criss-cross designs on their placemats. Then give guests dot stickers to add polka-dots to the design.

Friendship quilts

Give each guest a six-inch square of muslin and fabric markers to draw their favorite designs (stars, hearts, dots, stripes, ladybugs, butterflies, peace signs, sports balls, etc.) After the party, sew the squares together to make a friendship quilt for the honoree or to donate to a local children's organization.

Dots and stripes hockey

Create a grid of 25 eight-inch squares (five squares by five squares) using strips of colored duct tape. Write the numbers one to 25 on small pieces of duct tape and stick a number in the center of each square. (Arrange number randomly rather than in order.) Give each child a hockey puck with a different color of duct tape across the center. Each child takes a turn sliding his or her hockey puck into the duct-tape grid.

After each round, record the number of the square where each child's puck landed – if the puck lands on the grid. Repeat five times, then add up the scores.

Striped and dotted pizza

Encourage guests to create their own mini striped and dotted pizza using pizza sauce, string cheese or strips of yellow cheese, and pepperoni.

Oh-so-sweet pizza

Have guests create their own party treats using pre-baked circles of sweet dough, strawberry cream cheese, strips of Fruit-By-the-Foot fruit snacks or fruit leather, blueberries, raspberries, Fruit Loops and other round, colorful treats.

