

Create a Family Happy Hour or a Couple's

HAPPY HOUR

A CanCan Mom Evening Routine



When my oldest kids were toddlers, I created our “Family Happy Hour” with a similar atmosphere to a cocktail hour.

The key was to change our regular snacks and juice to something fun and party-like with dollar store decorative paper and plastic cups, straws, cocktail napkins, and themed paper plates I kept stocked in our house.

In truth, the colorful cocktail napkins and cups were enough to set the tone along with the upbeat music playing while we danced, sang, and enjoyed delicious finger foods.

I would serve the kids’ juice, chocolate milk or frozen fruit slushies with appetizers. They would giggle and go right along with it as though they were having a night on the town.



The menu might include these choices that kids can help make:

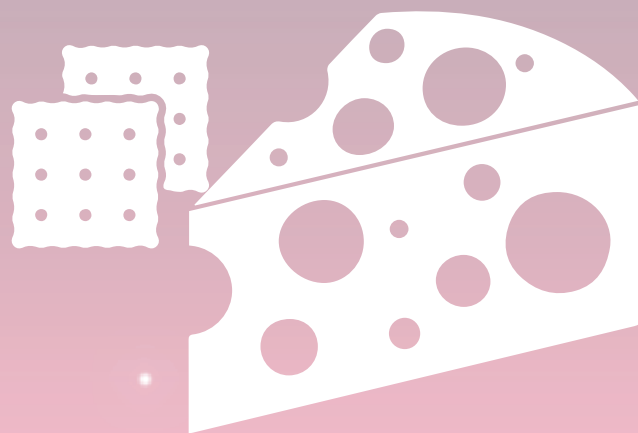
baby carrots and hummus,
ham and cheese roll ups,
cocktail pigs in a blanket with grape jelly dip (Google it!),
2-inch small squares of thin crust pizza,
crackers with cheese and small slice of a baby gherkin
pickle on top,
celery stalks filled with warm spinach and cheese or cream
cheese,
popcorn sprinkled with parmesan cheese
bread slices in different shapes using cookie cutters, place
on a baking sheet then toast one side, turn over toast
pieces and spread with butter and seasoning of your
choice and serve with dips, or tuna salad,
OR make it cinnamon toast and dip into applesauce.



For older children, use a metal straw to poke holes in pineapple bites and strawberries and place on a wooden skewer for fruit kabobs or cheese cubes and boneless chicken bites for protein kabobs.

Want a warm appetizer? Kids can help make this one. Mix up 1 cup of mayo, 1/4 cup of dried onion flakes and a 1/3 cup (or a bit more) of parmesan cheese. Place a heaping spoonful on slices of Italian bread. Put on a baking tray and put under the broiler for just a few moments (keep an eye on them) until bubbling and golden brown. Let them cool a bit. Serve warm. A lovely savory choice.

The important point is to enjoy this time together. Laugh and joke and sing and dance. Release the stress of the day. Reconnect with your family.



This party time is now a tradition!

Fifteen years later, we still have a family happy hour on a regular basis and play great music, drink out of fancy glassware, and unwind before homework and dinner.



FOR A COUPLE'S HAPPY HOUR

One person can pick up takeout and the other dessert to surprise each other after work or they can meet at home to have fun creating apps, entree, and dessert while enjoying adult beverages of their choice.

Put on some music, dance, and enjoy the party atmosphere. Just plan ahead so the ingredients are on hand for this fun/romantic time and, if need be, the adult beverages are chilled and ready to be served when you arrive home!

CHEERS!

