

Non-Food Ideas for Classroom Celebrations

Celebrate Monthly Birthdays Together

Choose a day each month to acknowledge all the birthdays in that month. Activities could include:

- Games such as Trivial Pursuits, Pictionary, Charades, and Karaoke
- Special movie
- Arts and crafts
- Special birthday table

Acknowledge Birthdays for each Student

On the actual birthday of each student, take a few minutes to acknowledge the child in a special way. For example:

- Have the class sing "Happy Birthday" to the student.
- Display a special flag or banner each morning someone has a birthday.
- Hang a special pillowcase over the back of the child's chair.
- Let the child pick something from a special birthday box supplied with non-food items such as small toys, stickers, and pens.
- Make a birthday throne for the child.
- Invite a parent/family member to read a story to the class or do another activity.

Birthday Privileges

Give the birthday student a special privilege of his or her choice

- Have lunch with the teacher
- No homework pass
- Choose seat for the day
- Lunch with a parent
- Special class chore
- Extra recess or gym time
- Announce morning messages