



SUMMER DAYS are circus days. A circus party is a wonderful idea for the summer birthday party—or just for fun in those last days before school starts in the fall. Let the youngsters dress up and perform to their heart's delight. Serve them circus eats—a Big Top cake, pink lemonade, animal-shaped cookies and (best of all) Kids Pops. Make the all-day suckers yourself in your refrigerator from quick-frozen concentrated orange juice for a good lickin'. For a party atmosphere, stick the suckers in a round styrofoam cut to fit the top of a child's drum. Birds Eye Orange Juice makes the Kids Pops.

CIRCUS DAYS

It's easy to have Halloween parties and parties on St. Patrick's Day, but sometimes a theme for a youngster's summer party doesn't suggest itself quite so readily.

A circus party may just fill the bill for that summer birthday anniversary party or the party that is just for fun for a visiting cousin, for example.

Spark of the party with a circus theme can be furnished by the youngsters themselves. Plan it as a dress-up party—all of the boys can come as "tramp" clowns if they want to and the girls can be clowns, trapeze artists or tattooed ladies—they'll think up enough bright ideas all by themselves.

There can be prizes for the best costumes, most amusing acts and so on. "Concessions" can be set up, if you want to go to that much trouble. But let this be one circus where overeating of circus "eats" can't lead to troubled tummies.

Peanuts, by all means—in the shell. (You can put up a prize for the one who gathers up the most peanut shells in the backyard after the party is over, if you want to.)

Party suckers always lend a festive air. You can make them in your own refrigerator. Pour Kids Pops can be made by stirring one tablespoon sugar in 1 cup of water until dissolved, then adding a 6-ounce can of quick-frozen concentrated orange juice and blending. Pour into sucker molds if you have them. If not, use your ice cube trays and you'll get twice as many from each recipe. Place in freezing compartment of refrigerator, setting control for coldest temperature. Freeze until almost firm, then push sucker stick into mold for handle. Continue freezing until firm—it will take about four hours. They're pretty and they're good to eat.

BIG TOP CAKE
One package of white or yellow Instant Swans Down Cake Mix will make two 8-inch cake layers. Cook as directed and cool.
For easy frosting, use a package Minute-Mix Instant Fluffy Frosting Mix and make according to directions. If you wish to tint the frosting, a few drops of food coloring may be folded in to tint the frosting.

Don't let the fact that we don't live in a metropolitan city stop you when it comes to decorating. Sure, in San Francisco you could go downtown to one of the shops and get chocolate circus figures, no doubt—but it's lots more fun to make your own. From a package of animal crackers you can get any selection of circus animals you wish. Frost them in contrasting color or chocolate-coat them and stick them around the sides while the frosting is soft enough to hold

them. A little pennant stick on top of the beautiful big cake can read "Big Top" and be made in a minute with a long corsage pin and a triangle of white paper.
Pink lemonade goes with a circus. Use Lemon Kool-Aid and add grenadine (or raspberry or strawberry juice) to tint it pink. If you want to make sparkling pink lemonade, use 1 large bottle (24 or 25 ounces) of carbonated water as a substitute for 1 quart of the water. One package of lemon soft drink powder requires 1 cup of sugar, 1-3 cup grenadine or red fruit juice and 2 quarts of water. Two quarts will make about 10 six-ounce servings.

catastrophe at dinnertime?

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