

The Welcome Place: Porch Swings & Picnics
Cindy Sigler Dagnan

Going the Extra Mile: Little Touches That Make All the Difference

- line pantry and cabinet shelf edges w/ lace; line drawers w/ scented paper
- throw a towel in the dryer and give cozy warmth to someone whose bath or shower is just finished/keep bath salts, fizzies & bubbles in stock
- in your guest room, turn down covers, leave a mint or fresh flower; on the bedside table, place a pitcher of water, a cup and a few current magazines or a good inspirational book; lay a set of towels on the end of their bed.
- in the bathroom, keep a small basket filled w/ extra toothbrushes, sample bottles of shampoo, lotion, conditioner, mouthwash, etc. for any guests who may have forgotten something
- when you make hot cocoa, add whipped cream, marshmallows, miniature chocolate chips and drape a candy cane over the side
- dip the rim of glass ware into water, dip it in sugar and freeze lightly before serving lemonade or tea
- float a few strawberries in a pitcher of lemonade
- make tea in a see-through pitcher. Add lemon, orange and apple slices for an appealing look & taste
- a bowl of fresh lemons & limes atop a stack of coffee table books is inexpensive & elegant
- freeze cranberries in your icecubes to add to water for a visual and flavorful treat; purchase shaped ice-cube trays (we like stars) for a fun change; add red & blue food coloring to ice cube trays for a July treat.
- have a "You Are Special" plate (ours is red) to celebrate family & guest special occasions. Keep a list near the plate or write on the back in permanent markers. Ours has celebrated everything from finishing chemo treatments (my dad); to 54th birthdays (my mom); to first days of school, honor rolls, engagements, job changes, etc.
- keep a guestbook by your front door
- save your Christmas cards and as a family project, draw one family per week to pray for
- adopt a national leader to pray for. Send them a card or packet of encouragement & drawings from the children once each month this year.
- be hospitable when you're on the receiving end too, w/ a small hostess gift [church cookbook, small floral bouquet, candle, card with candy bar or potpourri tart attached]
- put tea lights and place cards at each place setting
- keep your high chair after your family has outgrown its use to have on hand for small guests
- use a picnic or card table to decorate a special "children's" table