

The Welcome Place: Porch Swings & Picnics
Cindy Sigler Dagnan

Table Centerpieces

Winter:

- ~Red poinsettias on a white lace doily
- ~a solid table cloth w/ fresh pine boughs down the center; hot glue on pinecones and inexpensive red ball ornaments; sprinkle with glitter
- ~a tray w/ a pitcher and plaid mugs, napkins, draped around
- ~a row of glass stemware (5-6) filled with water and red rose clusters (switch to lilies, tulips, etc. for other seasons)
- ~a planter of paperwhites
- ~a decorative plate filled with pillar candles of varying heights & potpourri

Spring:

- ~a large pitcher filled w/ tulips
- ~use a lovely, old quilt for a tablecloth
- ~use a grapevine wreath to ring your centerpiece and draw attention to it
- ~fill a deep bowl w/ lilacs. Can't get real ones? Invest in some decent silk ones, pull a few blossoms off and scatter around the bowl or pitcher.
- ~fill a clear bowl w/ Easter grass or shredded colored paper and speckled eggs of varying colors

Summer:

- ~use the base end of your cake stand. Place clear cylinders filled w/water & floating blue candles on top. Surround w/ sea shells, a starfish (and sand if you're brave) add a child's beach shovel.
- ~use the base of your cake stand. Paint miniature (doll house) garden benches, Adirondack chair and place on top. Fill in with green shredded paper and flowers to create a tiny garden
- ~Use an speckled antique pitcher to fill with sunflowers
- ~use your children's dandelion bouquets - the miniature syrup vases from Cracker Barrel make great vases!
- ~a simple enamelware bowl filled w/ fresh lemons & limes; tie ribbons around them with long trailers for a more formal touch

Autumn:

- ~fill a wooden bowl or antique tool caddy with apples
- ~place cloved oranges in a glass dish
- ~let your children fill a clear dish up with colorful fall leaves
- ~find a unique container and fill it w/ signs of the seasons
- ~use a butcherblock paper tablecloth at Thanksgiving for guests to write their blessings down as they wait for dinner
- ~fill each compartment of a wooden divided tray or tool caddy w/ candles, old miniature dolls, blocks, old books tied w/ ribbons, etc. for an interesting conversation piece