

Piñata Picnic

Piñatas may sound like an activity exclusive to the kid set, but they actually have a strange magnetic quality for adults, too. There is always the potential for an America's Funniest Video moment, but having a piñata party is also a simple, inexpensive way to make any get-together more wild and interactive. They're my new favorite thing – bring one to a party, give one to a friend as a gift. Here's how to plan a piñata picnic play date.

THINGS YOU'LL NEED:

Piñata
Swag for inside the piñata
Blindfold, bat or pole, and rope
Picnic snacks, food, drinks
Blanket

If making your own piñata:
the flour, water, balloons,
newspaper, string

Invite your family and friends to meet at a park or in your backyard for a picnic. This plan even works if the date is a party of two! Organize a menu of picnic favorites like tacos, fried chicken, corn on the cob, tomato basil-mozzarella sandwiches, watermelon, and ice tea. Think of the piñata as dessert.

Buy a piñata at a party store or make one from scratch (engage the kids to help, it's actually fun and easy once you have all the materials laid out). Take a minute to meditate on the filling. Instead of penny candy and party favor-style toys, go for picnic sweets like homemade mini-cookies, chocolates, or retro favorites like mini-moon pies and taffy. Then fill the rest of the piñata with gift-certificates to an ice cream store or a candy store like Sees; maybe school supplies and other useful little items to take home. Don't overdo it; just make sure there's enough for everyone to have a sweet treat and a little something extra for the kids. Oh, and make sure everything is sized to fit in the piñata opening!

**If The Picnic Blanket Only Has Room For You
And Your Sweetie,
Then Have Fun Filling The Piñata With
Naughty And Sexy Swag ...
Then It Really Is Dessert - Ha!**

Scope out a spot under a tree that you can use to hang the piñata. Make a circle on the ground under where the piñata is hanging (use ribbon, string tied around small stakes or spray chalk found at home improvement centers and craft store – just make sure it won't kill the grass).



Making Your Own Piñata

In General Piñatas Are Inexpensive To Buy But If You Want To Make It An Activity For The Kids, It's Pretty Easy, Here Are The Basics:

Protect your work area from flying paste.

Inflate a balloon to the size you'd like the body of your piñata to be. Make legs, tails, snouts, hats, etc. with cardboard, newspaper or construction paper then tape to the balloon with masking or clear tape.

Make paste by mixing 1 part flour with 2 parts water; heat on the stove at medium heat for approximately 3-5 minutes. The paste should just begin to thicken. Don't overcook. Store paste in a container.

Tear newspaper, flyers, magazines, etc. into 1 inch - 1 1/2 inches wide strips. Smear the strips with paste and cover the balloon completely with a thick layer of strips. Usually 3 layers will do the trick. In between layers two and three, wrap and tie a string around the shape (this will be the string the piñata will hang from). Let the layers dry almost completely before adding another layer of strips.

After the shape is completely dry, paint the outside and design the face and other elements with paint and crepe paper. Using a serrated knife or scissors, cut a hole for stuffing. Then close it up!



Refresh Yourself On The Rules:

1 No one but the person taking a swing at the piñata may enter the circle until after the piñata has been opened.

2 The swinger will be blindfolded, turned around three times, given a pole and given three tries at hitting the piñata. Youngest goes first!

3 Shout "go" as the piñata breaks, as kids will run toward the goodies, and this is important: make sure the swinger to know to stop swinging!

