



Mrs. P's "Alice in Wonderland" Activity Guide

Mrs. P has some wonderful ideas for your playtime, storytime or, well, anytime!
Because being creative is just a lot of fun!

TEA PARTY

A Mad Hatter Tea Party. Any day can be a fun day for a tea party. Or you can make it a special event. Here are some ideas.

Pick a location: Inside or outside can work for a tea party. If you go outside, think about holding it under a nice big, shady tree.

What to eat: Make sandwiches and cut them out with cookie cutters. Animal shapes, like rabbits, are fun! Mini cupcakes or cookies make a delicious dessert. See more ideas under the Edible Fun section of this guide.

What to wear: It's always fun to play dress-up for a tea party. See the Arts and Crafts section of this guide for making silly hats. Or dress up as your favorite Wonderland characters. Using face paint, you can be a rabbit or cat or any other character you like from the book.

Decorations: Find some mismatched teacups and saucers (the thrift store is great for this). If you are having your tea party outside, it's fun to use an assortment of 'odd' chairs around the table, so that people have to sit at different heights. Use a colorful tablecloth and fill some vases with white and red roses. If you don't have a tablecloth handy, a deck of cards scattered on the table can be fun. Make labels from paper with the words 'eat me' and 'drink me' and attach them to all kinds of things, like the sugar bowl and bottles.

Sample Invitation ideas: Making your own invitations is a craft project unto itself. The party starts when you start making the invitations. Here is a sample to help you get started:

*Put on a crazy hat, some rabbit ears, or come as a cat,
While sipping tea among the roses, we'll do this and that!
This adventure in Wonderland is sure to be great,
So don't be late for this very important date!*

Date:

Time:

Address:

RSVP:

ARTS & CRAFTS

Hat Making – Nothing is more fun and creative than making some silly hats. Most of the elements can be found at home -- like colored craft paper, newspapers, paper bags, disposable paper or plastic plates (color or plain will do). The paper plates can be used for creating a brim for a hat, or even worn as the hat itself.

Other things you can use to decorate the hats are colorful pipe cleaners, yarn, felt, feathers, sequins, pom-poms, tassels, buttons, old jewelry pieces, cotton balls, foil made into shapes, basically whatever is on hand. Colored markers, crayons, paints are also great to use to adorn the hats.

Throw in some scissors and glue and you are set for some hat making. The hats are also a great activity for a Mad Hatter Tea Party!

For a Mad Hatter Hat, don't forget to add a 3x5-inch card or cut out a small piece of paper with "10/6" written on it for your oversized top-hat design. The Mad Hatter always had a card with these numbers stuck in his hat. Many think this was some secret code, but truth be told, it actually refers to the cost of a hat in London. The cost was ten shillings sixpence.

TRIVIA BREAK: Mad Hatter Day is the "second silly day" of the year (the first being April Fool's Day) and is celebrated on 10/6 (October 6 in the United States; June 10 in Britain).

Rabbit Ear Headbands:

Who doesn't want to have their own pair of rabbit ears? Here are some ideas for making your own.

Take a large piece of construction paper in a color that you like. Then cut out a strip of paper about 2 inches wide and long enough to wrap around your forehead. You will be stapling the ends together, so make it a little longer than your actual head size so you have room to staple.

Next you need to cut out some bunny ears. An easy way to do this is to fold a piece of 8 ½ by 11 inch paper in half the long way. Draw the shape of the ears for your bunny on your paper. Bunny ears are pointy, long and shaped like a corn cob. Begin cutting. You can decorate the inside of the ears too, if you like. Most bunny ears are pink inside.

You are almost finished. The last step is to attach the bottom edge of each ear to the strip of paper you made for your head. Use staples or tape to keep them in place. Once the ears are attached, staple or tape the ends of the strip together in the shape of a circle before placing it on your head. Now start hopping!

TIME SAVING TIP: If you already have a headband, you can just tape your bunny ears to your existing headband.

BE NICE TO THE PLANET: With this and all craft projects, please recycle or re-use as much of your materials as possible. Mrs. P is best friends with Mother Nature and wants to stay on her good side!

EDIBLE FUN

It's fun to help out in the kitchen. You can even practice reading aloud when reading the recipe. And you can learn a little math by figuring out how to measure. Here are a few fun items to make that are "Alice" themed.

Cookie ideas

Bake cookies from your favorite recipe in the shape of hearts, clubs, diamonds and spades. You can use pre-made cookie cutters, or you can make your own: draw the shapes you want on wax paper, cut them out, then place them on top the rolled-out cookie dough. Use these patterns as a guide to cut and shape your cookies. Your playing card cookies will be perfect for your Mad Hatter Tea Party!

Cupcake ideas

Using your favorite recipe, make mini cupcakes and with icing write the words 'eat me' on them.

Rabbit Salad

In this recipe, you will create a salad shaped like a rabbit.

- Start by washing some lettuce leaves. You will be using them as the base for the salad. Spread the leaves on top of a plate.
- For the rabbit body: You will need half of a fresh or canned pear. If you have a whole pear, cut it in half lengthwise. This will be the body you will decorate.
- To create the rabbit's nose: use a cherry or some red-colored, dried fruit, like a cranberry. Place it in the middle of the narrow part of the pear.
- Now you can add the eyes. Take 2 raisins and put them just above the nose on the narrow part of the pear.
- Next, the rabbit will need its ears. Use 2 almonds or other nut of choice and stick them into the pear above the eyes.
- Lastly, all rabbits need a tail. Take a small piece of cauliflower and place it at the rear of the wide end of the pear half. For a sweeter version, use a mini marshmallow.

GAMES (Indoor and Outdoor)

Indoor Games

Chess. Learn to play. There are lots of rules and things to know, so it will take some time -- but it's fun even if you're only *pretending* to play. Either way, you can do this on a normal-sized chessboard, or you can make a huge chessboard in your garden and have your friends play all the pieces!

Pin the Grin on the Cheshire Cat. For 2 kids or more. Just like Pin the Tail on the Donkey. Take a large poster board and draw or paint your version of the Cheshire Cat. Next, draw and cut out lots of different pictures of grins. Put some double-sided or folded-over tape on the back of them to make them sticky. Give a grin to each of your friends. Take turns closing your eyes, or using a blindfold, while trying to pin the grin on the poster of the cat. Whoever gets it closest to the right spot, wins!

Humpty Dumpty Painted Eggs. Hard boil some eggs. Take felt pens, craft paper and glue to add legs, arms and eyes to your eggs so they resemble Humpty Dumpty. This can be done inside or out, depending on weather.

Hearts -Learn to play the card game Hearts. The game requires a standard deck of cards and four players. The rules can be found online.

Find the Queen of Hearts: For two kids or more. Get a hat, or even a box. Take a deck of cards, place it inside the hat or box and shake it up. Have your friends reach in without looking and pick a card. The first one to pick the Queen of Hearts wins the game.

Coloring Sheets – Download these free from the MrsP.com website and fill them in with your own rainbow of wonderful colors!

Outdoor Games

Play Lawn Croquet: You don't have to have your own set to play this game. Half the fun will be to make your own. You will need a small ball, a bat or stick and some plastic cups. You can use the plastic cups to hit the ball into, or for a more traditional game, use some recycled cardboard and cut out large arches to hit the ball through. The bat or sticks will serve as the mallets. You can adorn these with stuffed socks (white socks with paper in them) and then use a rubber band to hold them in place. You can even sew buttons on the socks for eyes, so your bat or stick will look like a flamingo mallet, just like in Alice's game. You can also paint hedgehogs on the balls. Watch garage sales, too, for a real croquet set, as they last for years!

Key Hide and Seek: Find a small key that no one uses anymore, or draw your own key and cut it out of cardboard. Pretending it's Alice's golden key, hide it someplace quite clever and unexpected around your house. Whoever finds it first, wins!

Tea Cup Run: You will need 2 buckets per team and some teacups (though paper or plastic cups will do too). One bucket will be empty and one will be filled with water. They should be far apart from each other, such as on the other side of the yard from one another. Have each friend fill their cup up with water from the full bucket and run to the other side as fast as they can without spilling. When they get to the empty bucket, they must pour the water from the cup in it, then run back to the other bucket and get more water. The team that fills the empty bucket first wins the game.

White Rabbit Hop: You will need some empty potato sacks or old pillowcases. Put your feet inside and pull them up to hold onto. (You can even tie your legs together at your ankle with some ribbon or string.) Take a piece of string to create a finish line. Hop, Hop, Hop like the White Rabbit, while yelling "I'm late!" The first one to cross the finish line wins! (Be sure to play this in a safe area where you can fall down and not get hurt!)

FUN TIP: Create Certificates for Winners. Use a piece of construction paper as a base, and pens, paints, crayons and even glitter to decorate and create certificates to be awarded to the winners of each game. You can also take small paper plates, cover them in tin foil and staple a strip of blue or gold ribbon at the bottom as another way to reward the winners.

LEARNING ABOUT NATURE

Learn about caterpillars and butterflies. Read a book about a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. You can get one from the library or go online and find information with pictures.

READING AND WRITING

- Create your own quiz with trivia questions based on the Alice characters. For example a "Who Said What?" game can be lots of fun.
 - Who said, "Curiouser and curiouser!" (the answer is Alice)
 - Who said, "Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be too late!" (the answer is the White Rabbit)
- Read "The Walrus and the Carpenter" (also in Mrs. P's Magic Online Library)
- Go to the library and pick out another chapter book to read