

# Bite-Size Socializing For Less

(NAPSA)—After a ball game, during family movie night or simply while enjoying a gathering with neighbors, having a great time doesn't mean having to put forth a great deal of effort or spend a lot of money. It helps if you keep things simple—and bite sized.

Whether you invite people over or if friends just show up at your door, the key to being a relaxed host is to plan ahead. Have a menu in mind and stock up on foods and disposable dinnerware when they go on sale so you can feed a crowd at a moment's notice. Here are some ideas to try:

**Appetizers:** Start with easy-to-eat nibbles to kick off the festivities.

- Dips are simple to prepare and appeal to a crowd. Try homemade toasted pita chips drizzled with olive oil and herbs as dippers along with the traditional chips and seasonal veggies.

- Skewer grape tomatoes, cucumber wedges, chunks of lettuce and slices of bell pepper. Serve with salad dressings on the side.

- Set up a bruschetta bar. Pile a platter with sliced, toasted garlic bread. Place bowls of various toppings nearby for guests to make their own: chopped tomatoes, basil and olive oil; flavored hummus with feta; sun-dried tomatoes and black olives; marinated artichokes and tapenade.

**Main courses:** Small servings of entrées allow your guests to sample a variety of options.

- Sliders are a fun twist to their larger cousins. Try mini-buns filled with BBQ pork or beef or chicken salad that can be homemade or purchased. Serve



## Plan on serving bite-sized foods for easy entertaining on a budget.

with coleslaw, chopped green olives, caramelized onions and more.

- Minimeatballs are a big treat. Buy or make them in advance and freeze them until needed. Then serve them on buns or with toothpicks alongside a variety of sauces: barbecue, salsa, honey mustard, horseradish cream, curry, chutney and marmalade.

**Dessert:** Give guests creamy frozen treats without messy scoops, bowls and spoons. Instead, try poppable, munchable, bite-sized Dibs—frozen vanilla bites covered in a crunchy milk chocolate shell. These are available in Vanilla and Nestlé Crunch flavors in a convenient 140-bites value pack that keeps them fresh and ready to share with a houseful of guests.

### **Learn More**

For more information, visit [www.dibs.com](http://www.dibs.com).