Program 4: Cupcake Decorating

The kids in your town love crafts programs and they love food programs, so from time to time you offer cupcake-decorating. It is always a big hit, so you require registration and limit enrollment to 20 children in grades 4-6. The program is held in your program room. Participants sit around tables.

Two librarians run the program. You buy or make plain chocolate and vanilla cupcakes in advance, enough for each participant to get six cupcakes to decorate.

When the children come into the room they go to a large table in the front where they get their cupcakes on a paper plate. On the table are tubs of different flavored icing, tubes of icing for writing, sprinkles, assorted candies and other items for decorating. The children pick out their own decorating supplies and take them to smaller tables to work.

The librarians circulate around the room giving suggestions, bringing supplies and commenting on the designs. Cupcake cookbooks are available with pictures of possible designs to give the kids ideas. Kids are asked not to eat the cupcakes until the end of the program, but there are enough of the candies and other decorating items to snack on during the work period.

At the end of the decorating (about 45 minutes), the children put their creations on display on the tables. They are given 3x5 cards they can use if they want to give their design a name or describe what they’ve done. Everyone walks around the room and looks at all of the creations. After that, the kids can go back and eat one or two of their cupcakes. Plastic wrap is provided so they can cover up the rest to bring home. The entire program, with cleanup, takes 1½ hours.

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