

The IndieBizChicks.com Valentine's Guide



Valentine's Gift Ideas for Teens

By the time kids reach their teen years, so many things that parents do can seem sappy and dull. Gifts on Valentine's Day can become one of those things. This year, give a gift that shows your teen that parental love is still a cool thing to have in their lives.

Teens these days are into vintage and eclectic things. This includes their clothes, shoes and gadgets. Think of a throwback gift that you can surprise your teen with that will get you a hug or at least a smile of gratitude. Remember the Rubik's cube or the magic 8 ball? These gifts are especially fun for a girl.

What about your son? He could use a Nerf football or basketball. Every boy should have an over-the-door basketball hoop in his room. Making a few baskets helps him to think over his problems or just let off some steam. He would enjoy the Rubik's cube or a Simon game. Nowadays they make these kinds of games pocket size and keychain size.

When I was a teen, my walls were covered in posters. The posters were of celebrity idols and movie scenes. Find out what kids of movies, music celebrities, and games your kids like and get them some new posters. They'll be surprised that you even know where to find those posters.

Gifts from the heart show that you are interested and care about their life and their passions. They may be interested in the guitar this week. Even though you have a sneaking suspicion that next week they will want to be an artist, give them a gift certificate for a few free guitar lessons. At least they will have a chance to try it out and see if they really want to play the guitar.

Girls and guys like jewelry. Surprise your daughter with a necklace and earring set in the color of her birthstone. Boys are usually more into silver rings or necklaces. Instead of choosing a piece of jewelry for him, get a gift card to the jewelry store and let him pick out his own accessories.

Create some cards that they can redeem for free services around the house. If your teen is on the younger side, they might appreciate getting to stay up an extra half hour, a free movie, or a sleepover with friends. Older teens would like an extra half hour or hour out with friends on the weekends or extra driving time in the family car.

A good way to choose gifts for Valentine's Day for your teen is to look at what they didn't get from their Christmas list. If there was something that you couldn't get at that time, you can choose from those things and get a Valentine's Day gift. This could be an electronic toy or even a new cell phone.

Give a special card to your teen. This card doesn't have to come from a store. If you have a card creating program on your computer, you can make it as lavish as you want. Express to them how you feel about them and how proud of them you are. A card is a keepsake that they can look back on in days, months and years to come and remind themselves of your feelings.

Valentine's Day affections don't have to be lost on your teen. Think of something that would interest them. They may act annoyed by it, but deep down they will cherish the sentiment forever.



Miss Gina Designs

An online boutique featuring unique, trendy and functional handmade items for babies, prissy little girls, rugged young boys, ladies and men. Many of the items can be customized with embroidery or hand painting.

Check us out at www.missginadesigns.com

Valentine's Gift Ideas for Kids

Kids love any occasion where they get presents. Valentine's Day is no different. Let them know about the meaning of this particular day through the gifts that you give to them. Here are a few ideas for Valentine's Day gifts for kids.

Kids give quirky valentines to kids in their class. Let them know that these valentines are not about romantic love but friendships. Valentine's Day is about celebrating love for one another which includes more than romantic love. Parent-to-child and friend-to-friend relationships are also important to highlight on this day.

Wake them up with a gift basket. Kids like to dig for things. Hide as many treats as you can in the basket for them to find. Include books, coloring books, crayons, stickers and the like in the basket. Toys are also good additions in a Valentine's Day basket.

Are your kids into sports? They are always in need of new equipment. A basket filled with sports-related gear gets them excited. My son is into skateboarding. An idea for a skateboarder would be a new set of wheels, shoe laces, elbow pads or a helmet.

Kids usually don't get to spend nearly enough time with mom and dad. When both parents are busy, precious family time can be lost. More than one child in the house reduces that time even further. Kids like one-on-one time with parents so that they can feel special.

This Valentine's Day, award them with that special time. For girls, why not make an appointment for a spa day with your daughter(s). Show them how to relax and spend time with mom. Talk about girly things as you get a manicure and a pedicure. Ask them how school is going during lunch. Don't set a timetable. Clear your schedule for the entire day so that nothing will interrupt the bonding time.

For boys, time spent with dad can be like winning the lottery. When planning a special day like this, don't forget to consider what your son would like to do, even if it is something that you are not particularly interested in. As a parent, you get to be the one trying a new thing this time.

Spend the day at the arcade playing video games, fishing, playing baseball, or whatever else your child wants to do so long as you are doing it together.

Take them to the store for a new outfit. They may want a new pair of pants, shoes, or a dress. At Christmas we give them clothes that they need, but on Valentine's Day they can get something that they want. No matter how outrageous it seems, let them be in control of their wardrobe for one day.

Let your kids be king or queen of the castle for a day. They get to have their parents do the chores for them on Valentine's Day. They can stay up later and watch movies if they wish. It's only for one day, so don't worry about a loss of sleep.

Kids are thrilled about any occasion that they get to celebrate something. Teach them about showing love on Valentine's Day through the gifts that you give.



**Discover the World of Lucky Charms and
A Charming World of Possibilities**

for You! Lucky Charms is a vibrant new direct sales company featuring luxe designer jewelry & accessory collections. Imagine turning your love of fashion into a flexible & fun new career with an unlimited earning potential. If style is your calling card...Make it your business card with Lucky Charms!

<http://www.LiveLifeLucky.com>

Valentine's Day Crafts for Kids

Kids like to create things. Valentine's Day is the perfect time to let them get creative. Here are some ideas to get them started.

If there are girls in your child's class, jewelry is a good craft. Stores sell kits to create bracelets, necklaces and rings. Your kids can visit a craft store and choose their own necklace material and the beads to go on them. In keeping with the theme of the day, they can choose heart-shaped beads in various colors and a necklace material that is suitable for school age little girls. Create one necklace yourself so that they can see how it is done. Matching bracelets can be made using the same beads.

Kids can give their teachers a bouquet of roses. These aren't just any roses! These special roses are made of tissue paper and pipe cleaners. Show kids how to fold the tissue paper and wrap it around the pipe cleaners. The flowers can be presented in a vase or with a ribbon tied around them.

Candy is still the most popular thing to use for crafts. Instead of beads, use candy to create bracelets for boys in the class. Candy pieces can be strung over a piece of string. It'll look nice at first and the boys can nibble on the candy throughout the day, kind of like a snack on the go.

Valentine's Day crafts can be created for family members. If grandma is into flowers, kids can give them a flower pot with seeds and a little bag of potting soil. Using paints, kids can decorate the pots in Valentine's Day fashion.

Instead of buying packs of Valentine's Day cards, let the kids use a card program and make their own for other members of the family. They can add whatever they want to the card. Some cards come blank for the kids to write what they want or with cute sayings already inside.

Kids can make Valentine's Day decorations for the house to put everyone in the mood to express their love. Using a piece of string, construction paper, scissors and glue, they can create a banner to be hung in the kitchen or anywhere in the house. Each paper heart can contain one letter in the words "Valentine's Day".

Make arrows for the boys so that they can pretend to be Cupid. Instead of metal, use wooden skewers as the arrow. Styrofoam pieces in the shape of hearts can be painted red and stuck on the end of the skewer. Pieces of ribbon can be glued to the other end to act as feathers on the arrow. To create a quiver for the arrows, use an empty cereal box.

Your child can make a Valentine's Day box for each child to hold their precious cards. The boxes can be purchased at a dollar store. If the boxes are not already decorated for the occasion, kids can use markers or paint to add hearts to the box. Write each child's name on the outside of the box. A piece of candy can be added to the box so that the kids don't open it and find it empty.

Valentine's Day is fun for kids. They get to have a good time making crafts for others and enjoying gifts given to them.



Time for Me Retreat Luray, VA March 27-29, 2009

In a beautiful setting in the Shenandoah mountains, the Time for Me retreat offers nurturing, wisdom, relaxation, and fun. It includes eight powerful speakers who will inspire and inform you as well as: massages, wine tasting, great food, networking with other attendees, fun activities, and perhaps - a chance to change your life. www.NoTimeForMe.net

Make Your Own Beautiful Heart Jewelry for Valentine's Day!

By Eri Attebery
www.JewelryMakingProfessor.com

If you are curious about what the handcrafted jewelry making phenomenon is all about, there are some beautiful Valentine's Day heart jewelry designs I want to show you to get you motivated to try your hand at jewelry making.

First, a very quick background on the wonderful craft of handmade jewelry making.

This craft has become so popular these days that it's almost certain you know somebody who at least makes jewelry as a hobby, if not as a home-based business.

By far the most common and easiest form of jewelry making is Bead Stringing.

With bead stringing all you have to do is select your favorite beads from an almost infinite variety of styles and colors and string them on a string.

Another style of jewelry making that is becoming more popular in the United States but has been very popular in my native country of Japan for the past 10 years or so is Bead Weaving.

With bead weaving you don't just run a string straight through the beads.

Instead you actually weave the string through the beads following a set pattern, and there are an enormous variety of patterns and shapes you can make.

By far one of the most popular shapes to bead weave is the heart shape.

To give you a taste for the variety of heart shapes you can make with bead weaving, here are a few examples:



To make these beautiful heart designs all you need are some Swarovski crystal beads, monofilament string, and some common jewelry making parts and tools that you can find at any local craft shop or on the internet.

These are challenging designs to create and there are written patterns you can find on the internet to help you.

However, I learned a few years ago that most people have trouble understanding written patterns so I created online videos showing step-by-step how to make these beautiful designs.

Why not use Valentine's Day as an incentive to give these designs a try yourself? You can make these hearts for yourself to show off your Valentine's Day spirit, or to make them as gifts for others.

You may find a new hobby for yourself, and possibly even the start of a new side business!

Please head on over to my website at <http://www.jewelrymakingprofessor.com> and click on Videos on Demand at the top where you can watch short preview videos showing how to make each of these designs.

7 Celebration Ideas for Kids

Valentine's Day is a day to share with the ones that you love. If you're like many people, this includes your children. There are many ways to celebrate Valentine's Day with the whole family...this ideas gives you plenty of ideas to do just that.

1. Children love to celebrate Valentine's Day with their friends. This is the day of the year that they can show their friends how much they mean to them. One of the best crafts that your children can do is to make homemade Valentine's Day cards to hand out at school. There is no need to spend money on the boring store bought cards when your children can make cards.

Start out by helping your children to cut out card sized hearts for the cards. The hearts can be cut from red and pink construction paper. The front of the heart can decorated with stickers, glitter and even ribbon to make each homemade Valentine card special. A personal note written on the back and signed by your child finishes the back of the card.

2. Your children will need a way to carry their homemade Valentine's Day cards to school. A special Valentine's Day tote bag will be the best thing to carry cards to school and bring all of their cards back home. Start this simple craft with a paper grocery bag. Attach ribbons to the top of the bag to make handles for the Valentine's Day tote bag. The tote bag it self can be decorated with cut out hearts, markers, ribbons, glitter and stickers.
3. Your children can make special treat bags to go with each of the Valentine's cards that they hand out. Start by choosing either chocolate candies or conversation hearts to fill the treat bags. You can get pink and red color tulle from your local craft store that can be cut into squares to make the treat bags. Place the square of tulle on the table. In the center of the square, you can help your children to place a small pile of candy. Finish off the treat bags by pulling up the sides and tying them together with ribbon.

4. Create homemade chocolate candies for friends. The school may not let you bring these treats because they are homemade but your child can take them to a Valentine's Day party at a friend's house or a church gathering. Many stores offer kits that include the candy molds and instructions for melting the chocolate. Another idea is to create chocolate spoons. They can be used as stirrers in hot chocolate since February is technically still the winter season.
5. Many children like to give Valentine's Day gifts to their teachers. There are a few gifts that your children can make for the many teachers that they have. The first gift idea is to give the teacher her own special candy stash. This usually works best with small chocolate candies but can be done with any type. Start with a clean dry mayonnaise jar with the label removed. Fill the jar with the candy that you have chosen to use. Cover the lid with a square piece of fabric in colors that remind you of Valentine's Day. Tie the cloth onto the lid with a ribbon. You can help your children to print up labels for the jar saving a special message for the teacher.
6. The second gift that you can help your children make for their teachers is cookie bouquets. Start by helping your children to bake heart shaped sugar cookies. Before you bake the cookies you will want to place a wooden dowel into them to make the stem for the heart flowers. Ice the cookies with red and pink icing and allow the icing to set. Place a piece of floral foam in the bottom of a container to set your flower cookies in. Arrange your heart cookie flowers to finish this gift with your children.

7. A final gift option for your children to give their teacher is a Valentine's Day apron. Start out by getting a plain apron from a craft store or cooking store. You will want to make sure that the fabric that you choose for the aprons will take paint. Have your children use paint pens to decorate the Valentine's Day apron for their teacher. This is a great craft to let your children's creativity flow on.



Rusty LaGrange

Out of the West comes the creative mind of Rusty LaGrange, your gal with the right words to make your web sites clear and compelling, your brochures rich with emphasis, and your copy yank the lapels of your toughest customer.

www.thewritewayco.com



<http://phydeaux.etsy.com>



CARIBBEAN CULINARY TOURS

The enchanting Caribbean boasts turquoise waters, warm people, great shopping, and unforgettable dining— and with Chef Freda of Caribbean Culinary Tours, you'll experience it all. This delicious cultural adventure highlights all the flavor and fun of the islands. Join her for her cooking in Paradise Tour to Antigua and Barbados. Hurry and book your tour by January 31 and save 20% off your confirmed booking <http://www.caribbeanculinarytours.com>

Valentine's Ideas for Families

1. Start Valentine's Day for your family with a big surprise for each family member. Everyone likes to get little gifts through out the day on Valentine's Day. Make small mailboxes to place on the back of each family member's chair. This is a craft that can be done the day before Valentine's Day with your children. Use half of a cereal box to make each mailbox. Cover the outside of the mailbox in either red or pink construction paper. Decorate each mailbox with the person's name and cut out hearts and glitter to make it special for each person. Use a hole punch to place two holes on the back of the mailbox. Use these holes to attach the mailbox to the back of each person's chair at the kitchen table with ribbon.
2. Before everyone gets up Valentine's Day morning place a card and a small gift into each person's Valentine's Day mailbox. The gift can be a small stuffed animal or even a little bit of chocolate. The idea is to give each family member a small surprise gift to start their Valentine's Day off right. A great way to build on this idea is to have each child place a special card from them in your spouse's mailbox.
3. Prepare a special Valentine's Day breakfast for your family. This should be a big meal that includes all of your family's favorite breakfast foods. You will want to make heart shaped pancakes for this event. You can attempt to make these by hand or use stencils that they sell in cooking stores. You can place chocolate chips in some of the pancakes for those in your family that enjoy chocolate. Make sure to include fresh fruit like strawberries to place on the pancakes. You can also make heart shaped toast. Once the toast is out of the toaster and buttered use a heart shaped cookie cutter on them. Make eggs, bacon, and any other breakfast favorites of your family.

4. Pack each family member their favorite lunch for the day. If Valentine's Day falls during the week, this is a great way to show your family members how much you love them when they are away from you. Include a small desert to finish off your loved one's favorite lunch. A special thing to add to this Valentine's lunch is a little note from you that tells them that you love them and miss them. You can pack this special lunch in their usual lunch bag so that is a surprise or use a brown paper lunch bag that is decorated for Valentine's Day.
5. If Valentine's Day falls on a weekend, it is a good idea to do a family fun day. One of the best things to do is to take your family to the park if the weather is good. Even on a brisk day, a day out at the park can be a day for your family to bond and explore nature. This is a fun and great exercise for you and your family. Many parks have playgrounds for the younger children to play on. You can pack a lunch or a special treat to have on your outing.
6. You could also have each family member choose an activity to do on Valentine's Day. This would give your family a fun way to try new things. It also helps you to get to know your family members even better. Let your children choose whatever they would like to do from the zoo to a movie. Make the only rule that the family needs to follow is that you must do at least one thing that each family member suggests. It is a good idea to plan this type of Valentine's Day celebration in advance so that you are sure to get to everyone's ideas.
7. Finish your family's Valentine's Day fun with a special sit down dinner. Use your best dishes to set the table and even place a centerpiece on the table to make the dinner special. You can even go so far as to request each family member dress up for the dinner. Make a homemade meal for your entire family to enjoy. You can go around the table and share everyone's favorite part of their Valentine's Day. This is one of the best things to do if you hand to spend Valentine's Day away from each day because it is a work and school day.