

## HOMEMADE INVITATIONS

In the 21st Century it's really easy to call or e-mail your friends for a get-together. But don't you love finding a fancy invitation waiting in your mailbox? Remember how excited Elsie got every time she received a "creamy white envelope" with her name handwritten on the front?

Now, of course, today we can go to the nearest card shop and buy all sorts of invitations for any kind of occasion. Uh - oh . . . that costs money and you have a budget, just like Elsie did! Besides, a personal handmade note from you will mean much more to your friends than a store-bought invitation. It shows them how special you think they are.

First things first: Decide what kind of party or special get-together you are having and design an invitation that tells your guests what to expect. Let's use the Elsie tea party idea as an example. Here are some ideas to make it fun, easy and . . . inexpensive!

4 x 6 unruled (no lines) index cards are cheap and make great postcard invitations. Use rubber stamps, stickers, colored markers or pens - anything you can imagine or design that looks pretty and old-fashioned.

Decorate the invitation any way you like BUT make sure you include the following details: Type, Date, Time, Place, Hours, Dress, and the RSVP.

R.S.V.P. is the abbreviation for a simple, but important, French phrase. Repondez s'il vous plait is translated to English with these two words: Please Reply. So, when you add an R.S.V.P. to an invitation, you are politely asking your guests to let you know if they will be able to attend. It's a small courtesy, but it really does help to know if you're planning a party for 6 or 60! You see, good manners are always in style . . . no matter what language you speak.

Address the other side as you would any real letter. After that's done and you have stamped the invitation (Budget help - the post office has less-expensive postcard stamps just for cards like yours) all you have to do is wait for the calls and e-mails to start coming in!

