

Let's make a bear paw snack!

Snack time doesn't have to be goldfish or pretzels in a bowl. Snack time is an opportunity to expand on language, work on fine motor skills, eye-hand coordination, and your emotional relationship with your child(ren).

Snack time is an excellent time for FUN!

Materials Needed:

Pudding cups – You can choose to use a ready-made pudding cup, or you can make your own pudding (*instant pudding is fun for the kids to help make by shaking it in a closed container or a Ziploc bag*).

Whip cream – You can use whipped cream from a can, Cool Whip, or even make your own.

Chocolate chips – You could use mini and regular chips, Hershey Kisses baking chips, or even a Junior mint candy piece.

How to: You can model this activity, work together at each stage or just let your child explore with the food items in their highchair/seat at the table. The original idea had jumbo marshmallows – I preferred whip cream for both safety (choking hazard if not bit into small pieces) and adding the opportunity to use a can of whip cream has sounds, cause and effect **the surprise of yummy, soft goodness to experience.**

- Open the pudding cups or place pudding into a bowl.
- Add the whipped cream to the top.
- Add one large chocolate piece in the middle of the whipped cream.
- Add 3-4 small chocolate chips above the large piece.

Developmentally this activity encourages: You can use this snack as an opportunity to explore language, to support a trip to the zoo when you saw the bears, to support a book you are reading (*Going on a Bear Hunt*). There are great action words to use – scoop, poke, in/out, lick, taste. This is an activity fun for all ages in your home so the big kids can be models and even teachers for your youngest. Making silly sounds and waiting for your child to mimic or attempt to imitate what you did/say supports the development of language, conversation, and even early literacy skills.

REMEMBER – Memory is tied to emotions. Have FUN, be SILLY. These moments are remembered.

The link below has examples of how to set up for this activity.

[Polar Bear Paw Snack Pack Pudding Treats - Thrifty Jinxy](#)

