



Chocolate Activities

Chocolate-Dipped Strawberries Yum! [Chocolate-dipped strawberries](#) are a popular, decadent treat. But why stop at strawberries? Get creative with your residents and try dipping other fruits and berries such as bananas, pineapples, raspberries, and apples. Don't forget other treats to dip like pretzels and marshmallows.



Mayan The [history of chocolate](#) can be traced to the ancient Mayans, and even earlier to the ancient Olmecs of southern Mexico. Explore with your residents the evolution of chocolate from the Mayan's chocolate to the chocolate we enjoy today. Learn more about the fascinating [Maya Civilization](#).



Cacao Tree Did you know you can grow and harvest your own cacao tree indoors, even if you don't live in a tropical climate? Do you have residents with a green thumb? Have them try their hand at planting a cacao tree [from a live potted plant](#).



Oreo Stacking Here's a fun intergenerational activity. "Oreo Stacko" is played as follows: One at a time each person rolls a die and must stack that number of Oreos. Players continue adding to their stack. If the Oreos fall while they are being stacked, they're out. Last person in wins.

Chocolate Tasting No one is going to turn down an opportunity taste chocolate. There are many ways to set up a tasting. You could do a blind tasting of different brands of milk chocolate. How about comparing dark, milk, and white chocolate? Which do you prefer? Offer residents, staff, and guests a sample of popular chocolates bars and have them vote on their favorites.



Paint with Pudding Is there anything more fun for kids (or adults) than finger painting? Finger painting with pudding is a great intergenerational activity that allows creativity and engages all the senses – seeing, hearing, touch, smell, and taste. Simply divide chocolate pudding in separate bowls for each person and provide art paper. Encourage participants to have fun and explore. (If you want different colors, use vanilla pudding and food coloring).



Field Trip If you are lucky enough to have a candy factory nearby, arrange a tour for your residents. Hopefully, they offer free samples! If a factory tour is not an option how about a trip to an old-fashioned candy store? Encourage your residents to reminisce about going to the candy store as children. What was their favorite candy? Is it still available? Encourage them to try something new.



Mexican Hot Chocolate Mexican hot chocolate is not your average hot chocolate. Made from ground-roasted cacao nibs, sugar, and cinnamon, it has a slightly granular texture and a distinctive spiced flavor. Besides cinnamon, Mexican chocolate may also contain other spices like nutmeg or allspice, as well as chilies for heat, and nuts for texture.



Warm up one afternoon with this [Mexican hot chocolate recipe](#).

Guess the # in the Jar Guessing the amount of candy in a jar is a classic activity. Fill a jar with chocolate candies such as M&Ms or Hershey's Kisses. Have staff and residents write down their guesses on slips of paper. The person who comes closest wins the jar, with all the candy inside. Hopefully, they will feel like sharing!



Willy Wonka *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* is a 1971 American musical fantasy film starring Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka. It is an adaptation of the 1964 novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. This is an example of family entertainment at its finest! Invite young guests to enjoy this movie with your residents. Don't forget to serve fizzy soda. (If you are looking for a more adult movie, try *Chocolat*.)



Book Club The novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* would be a fun and easy book club read. Some of your residents might remember reading this book with their children. Other chocolate-themed books to consider, *Chocolate and Vanilla*, *The True History of Chocolate*, and *The Chocolate Connoisseur*.



Read Aloud Residents could read books about chocolate aloud or buddy read with young visitors. You could even record your residents reading the books and share the recordings with local schools or afterschool programs. Here are some children's books about chocolate; *Betty Bunny Loves Chocolate Cake*, *Love Monster and the Last Chocolate*, *Curious George Goes to a Chocolate Factory*, *Lilly's Chocolate Heart*, and *No Monkeys, No Chocolate*.

Wear Brown Most chocolate is some shade of brown. Why not have a dress in brown day? Encourage staff and residents to don various shades of the color of chocolate. Think hats, scarfs, leis, t-shirts, socks, and of course, shoes.



S'mores Made with chocolate bars, graham crackers, and toasted marshmallows, s'mores are a popular treat around the campfire. If you do not have access to an outdoor fire pit, create your own [tabletop s'mores maker](#).

Gifts in a Jar Jars filled with the ingredients to create a chocolate treat make wonderful gifts for special visitors, staff, or family members. Gather mason jars and the ingredients for a delicious snack. Have your residents place the measured ingredients in a jar, along with an attached recipe card. [Fudge Brownie Hot Chocolate M&M Cookie Mix](#)



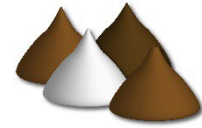
Recipe Book Your residents probably have their own favorite chocolate dessert recipes. Gather favorite recipes from residents and their families. Put them all together to create recipe books, include illustrations and personal notes. These special cookbooks will make nice keepsakes for family and staff.



Chocolate Sundaes Make ice cream sundaes with chocolate syrup and special toppings. Vote on whose is the most artistic, most appetizing, most decadent, most traditional, and then enjoy!



Chocolate Kiss Craft Believe it or not, Hershey's Kisses make a fun inexpensive base for many crafts. Try some of these with your residents, possibly including young visitors for an engaging intergenerational activity. [Kiss Roses](#), [Kiss Mice](#)



Classic Lucy Everyone loves the classic *I Love Lucy* scene with [Lucy and Ethel working in the chocolate factory](#). Share this video with your residents and staff when a good laugh is needed. What other classic *I Love Lucy* scenes do your resident remember? Did any of you ever have dreams of working in a chocolate factory? Did anyone actually work in a chocolate factory?



Chocolate Bath Salts Everyone loves the smell of chocolate. Have you ever thought of a chocolate scented bath? Have your residents follow this recipe for [chocolate bath salts](#). Use for themselves or as gifts for staff and family members.



Candyland Just for fun, play the classic game of [Candyland](#). Have a Candyland tournament. Create teams. Invite young guests. Decorate and dress up as features or characters from the game. If you are really creative, create a life-size version of the game throughout your community



M&M Decorations Get your residents involved and decorate your common areas with fanciful M&M decorations. Use small cardboard cake disks painted front and back to look like M&Ms.



Handmade Chocolates Purchase inexpensive candy molds from a bakery or party supply store. Choose molds for holidays or special occasions and ask your residents to create [handmade chocolates](#) for a party. Use white chocolate and food coloring for variety.

