Silly Sweets
Here's one of our favorite secret weapons for turning around a gray day: making fancy cupcakes for no reason at all. Ahead of time, buy some cake decorating supplies: candy hearts, sparkles, decorative roses, tubes of frosting. The fancier the better. When bad moods strike, break out the supplies, along with a batch of cupcakes (store-bought for ease, if you prefer). Let your kids decorate with abandon, then celebrate the birthday of a stuffed animal or some other worthy occasion.

INGREDIENTS
Cupcakes
- Assorted tubs and tubes of frosting
- Assorted candy, sprinkles, and other edible decorations

The cupcake decorating possibilities are limited only by your child's imagination. Some of our favorites include:

Pajama Party Kids. Frost a cupcake white. Use a toothpick dipped in melted chocolate to add a face and hair to a Mentos fruit candy. Snip fruit stripe gum with scissors to make pajamas.

Fish Food. Frost a cupcake blue and white. Cut fruit leather into a fish, add an eye and mouth, and stick on blue M&M's Minis for bubbles.

To-dye-for Cupcakes. Frost a cupcake with white icing and squirt on a series of concentric circles of colorful gel icings. To create the tie-dye effect, draw a toothpick through the gel, moving from the center outward, like a spider web.