



Be A Book Cook

Reading aloud to a child
is the single most important factor
in raising a reader.

Be a Book Cook
combines the love of reading
with the thrill of cooking.

Reading unlocks a child's imagination and increases vocabulary. Children may need to hear as many as 2,000 books before they begin to read. When you read to children, it tells them:



Planning fun activities that support the book theme will help the child remember the story. If you select a book with a food theme, you can help your child **be a book cook!**

Select Books with a Food Theme

Jamberry by Bruce Degen

If You Give a Moose a Muffin by Laura Joffe Numeroff

Eating the Alphabet by Lois Ehlert

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

If You Give a Pig a Pancake by Laura Joffe Numeroff

Cooking With Children

What is the key to a successful cooking experience with children? **Planning!**

A well-planned project will run much smoother than a spur-of-the-moment project. Plan a cooking experience with your child when you are relaxed and can enjoy it.

Tips for Safety and Success

Set-up by yourself ahead of time. When ready, allow your child to feel useful as the "leader" while you play a supportive role.

Plan to manage safety. Consider your child's age and protect him or her from sharp objects, burns, etc. Consider food safety as well. Children (as well as adults) should not taste dough or batters containing raw eggs.

When you select recipes:

Consider children's level(s) of skills and motor development.

Choose activities that they can participate in and learn from, but not activities that will be a struggle.

Two-, three-, and four-year-olds can learn to socialize and develop skills by:

- scrubbing**
- dipping**
- tearing**
- breaking**
- snapping**

Two-, three-, and four-year-olds can develop manipulation and eye-hand coordination by:

- pouring and measuring**
- spreading**
- juicing**
- mixing, shaking**
- rolling with both hands**
- peeling**

Three-, and four-year-olds are able to work against resistance by:

- cutting soft foods with a table knife**
- beating with an egg beater**

Four-year-olds can learn fine motor coordination and how to use sharp objects (with supervision) by:

- peeling with vegetable peelers**
- slicing with sharp knives**
- grating**

How To's:

Teach children how to wash their hands.

Encourage them to keep their hands away from hair, nose, mouth, etc. while handling food.

Show children how to use cooking utensils correctly.

Use a cooking surface that is at the child's level. It is not safe for your child to stand on a chair or stool.

Be flexible. If your child doesn't like a particular ingredient, substitute another.

Talk to your child about the food you are preparing and reinforce math skills (counting, measuring, sequencing of events). Notice your child's eye-hand coordination and use of small motor skills.

Enjoy being a team. Sometimes you lead, sometimes you follow. Let this be a learning experience for you, too!



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