

*What's the best thing about making a cake?
Licking the spoon, of course!
What's the worst thing about making a cake?
Waiting!*

Children learn a lot about reading and writing long before they start school. Everyday activities, such as shopping and cooking, provide opportunities to spark children's interest in the written word.

READ

BEFORE READING

Set the scene for the book by showing children a mixing bowl and a spoon.

You could really get their attention by wearing a chef's hat and apron!

Let their children share their cooking experiences before you read the story.

DURING READING

Encourage the children to join in with some of the repetitive text, for example, *Beat beat beat*. They could also do actions with their hands to match the words.

The illustrations in this book help to tell the story. Give the children plenty of time to explore the pictures. You may want to point out some of the things that are happening in the illustrations, like the baby getting the icing sugar out of the cupboard and the dog eating it.

SING

Sing some songs about food:

- *Pat A Cake*
- *Five Currant Buns*
- *This Is The Way* . . .

(sung to the tune of Frere Jacques)

This is the way we beat the eggs

Beat the eggs, beat the eggs

This is the way we beat the eggs

When we make a cake.

This is the way we measure the sugar...

This is the way we sift the flour... etc



Notes

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PLAY

Cooking is a great activity to share with children. Just be mindful of any allergies that children may have.

- When you are cooking together, talk to children about the recipe, it is great opportunity for them to see reading as a practical activity.

Cooking is a fun and easy theme to incorporate into dramatic play areas.

- Turn the home corner into a kitchen by adding some plastic kitchen utensils, an apron and oven gloves, recipe books and an oven made from a large cardboard box.
- Set up a cake shop.
Children can make cakes out of clay, collage or recycled materials.
Display the cakes with prices.
Your shop will also need a cash register and money.
You can help children make lots of signs for the shop, including its name, an open/closed sign and opening hours.
- Create a cafe or restaurant. Children will love 'cooking' for you and their friends. Print out some menus from local restaurant websites and help the children make their own.
- Children will need a notepad and pencil to 'write' down orders.
Don't forget a telephone and diary for taking table bookings!
- Give children appropriate materials and encourage them to record their own recipes, menus, shopping lists etc...

Sand Play

- Some children prefer playing outside. You can still include them in the experience by adding cooking tools such as scales, pots and pans, bowls and wooden spoons to the sandpit.

Water Play

- Providing measuring cups, funnels, colanders and other kitchen equipment to the water play gives children the chance to explore measuring and concepts such as full and empty.

Try these other great books about cooking:

Louie The Pirate Chef
Simon Mitchell & Ben Wood

Maisy Makes Gingerbread
Lucy Cousins
Carrot Soup
John Segal

I Only Like Toast
Greg Knagge, Jo Fielder and Shane Devries

Let's Eat!
Ana Zamorano and Julie Vivas

Chocolate Mousse for Greedy Goose
Julia Donaldson and Nick Sharratt

Ruby and Leonard and the Great Big Surprise
Judith Rossell

Jasper McFlea will not Eat His Tea
Lee Fox and Mitch Vane

