



5 CREATIVE

**PLAY  
KITCHEN  
GAMES**

TO BOOST  
IMAGINATION

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# LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

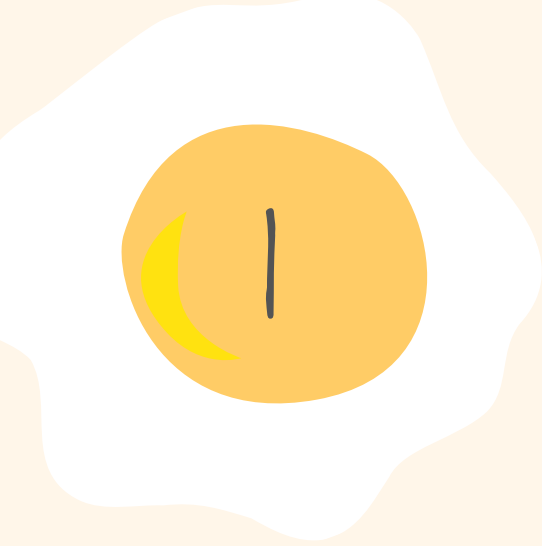
PLAY KITCHENS ARE A LAUNCHING PAD FOR ENDLESS HOURS OF OPEN-ENDED PLAY, SO WE ASSEMBLED A COLLECTION OF FIVE GAMES TO REALLY GET THEIR CREATIVE JUICES FLOWING AND GET THE WHOLE FAMILY ENJOYING PLAYTIME TOGETHER!

FOR EACH GAME, WE'VE INCLUDED A "SPICE THINGS UP" CHALLENGE TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THESE GAMES CAN BE EXPANDED UPON. WE'VE ALSO INCLUDED A "JUST A TASTE" MODIFIER SO EVEN THE LITTLEST CHEFS CAN PLAY ALONG.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE YOUR IMAGINATION, TOO! THINK OF THESE AS PROMPTS AND ADJUST AS NECESSARY TO FIT YOUR CHILD'S AGE AND ABILITIES.

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-  1 READY, SET, COOK!
  -  2 FIVE-STAR RESTAURANT
  -  3 MINI MARKET
  -  4 SPECIAL DINNER GUEST
  -  5 FUTURE "FOODIE" CHALLENGE

ALL OF THESE GAMES CAN BE PLAYED WITH ONE OR MULTIPLE CHILDREN.

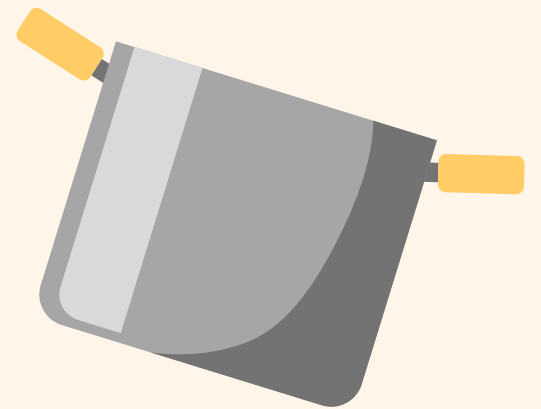


# READY, SET, COOK!

TURN YOUR PLAYROOM INTO THE BEST COOKING COMPETITION OF ALL TIME. KIDS LOVE A GOOD CHALLENGE AND ONE THAT GIVES THEM PLENTY OF ROOM TO IMPROVISE IS FUN FOR ALL!

## MATERIALS

- PLAY FOOD
- BASKET
- DISH TOWEL



## DIRECTIONS

1. WHILE CONTESTANT IS LOOKING AWAY, PLACE 3 PLAY FOOD INGREDIENTS IN A BASKET AND COVER WITH DISH TOWEL.
2. ON THE COUNT OF THREE, CONTESTANT UNCOVERS SECRET INGREDIENTS.
3. EACH CONTESTANT MUST CREATE AN IMAGINARY DISH USING THE SECRET INGREDIENTS.
4. EXTRA POINTS FOR PRESENTATION!

## SPICE THINGS UP

ADD AN EGG TIMER TO THE MIX AND HAVE YOUR LITTLE CHEF RACE AGAINST THE CLOCK TO PREPARE THEIR MEAL.

## JUST A TASTE

USE ONLY ONE SECRET INGREDIENT.

## WHY THIS GAME IS GREAT

LEARNING TO IMPROVISE AND THINK ON YOUR FEET IS AN INVALUABLE LIFE SKILL. THIS GAME IS A GREAT WAY TO PRACTICE THIS CRITICAL SKILL USING THE "SECRET INGREDIENT" PROMPTS TO HELP LAUNCH THEIR IMAGINATION.

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## FIVE-STAR RESTAURANT

KIDS ENJOY MIMICKING THE ADULT WORLD AROUND THEM, SO THIS GAME TAPS INTO THAT EXCITEMENT BY LETTING THEM ROLE PLAY A RESTAURANT EXPERIENCE.



### MATERIALS

- PLAY FOOD
- CHALKBOARD OR PAD TO WRITE MENU

### DIRECTIONS

1. HELP YOUR CHILD COME UP WITH A MENU FOR THE RESTAURANT.
2. DETERMINE WHO WILL BE THE WAITER AND WHO WILL BE THE CUSTOMER.
3. CUSTOMER SITS NEARBY AND ORDERS BASED OFF THE MENU.
4. MAKE THIS GAME AS SIMPLE OR ELABORATE AS YOU LIKE, AND BE SURE TO SWITCH ROLES SO EVERYONE GETS A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE HEAD CHEF AND FINE DINING!

### SPICE THINGS UP

GIVE YOUR KID A COMPLEX ORDER AND SEE IF THEY CAN REPEAT IT BACK TO YOU!

### JUST A TASTE

YOU BE THE WAITER AND GUIDE YOUR CHILD THROUGH THE PROCESS.

## WHY THIS GAME IS GREAT

WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO PRACTICE READING, WRITING, MEMORIZATION, AND MATH WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A REAL-WORLD SETTING, PLAYING RESTAURANT IS ONE OF THE MOST EDUCATIONAL IMAGINATIVE PLAY GAMES!

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# MINI MARKET

GOING TO THE GROCERY STORE WITH KIDS PROVIDES THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH THEM ABOUT MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES, NEW FOODS, AND HOW WE USE OUR MONEY.

## MATERIALS

- PLAY FOOD
- MONEY OR COINS (PAPER WORKS FOR THIS!)
- SHOPPING BAG OR BASKET



## DIRECTIONS

1. SORT PLAY FOOD INTO CATEGORIES, SUCH AS PRODUCE, DAIRY, MEAT, DRY GOODS, AND SWEETS.
2. ASSIGN ROLE OF SHOPPER AND STORE CLERK.
3. SHOPPER BROWSES THROUGH STORE WHILE STORE CLERK OFFERS HELP.
4. AT CHECKOUT, STORE CLERK "SCANS" THE ITEMS (A SIMPLE SWIPE AND BEEP SOUND-EFFECT WILL DO!) AND CUSTOMER PAYS.

## SPICE THINGS UP

HAVE YOUR CHILD CREATE COUPONS ON SLIPS OF PAPER THAT CAN BE USED AT CHECKOUT.

## JUST A TASTE

YOU PLAY THE ROLE OF STORE CLERK FIRST AND HELP GUIDE YOUR CHILD.

## WHY THIS GAME IS GREAT

GAMES LIKE SUPERMARKET ARE AWESOME BECAUSE THEY CAN MIMIC REAL SCENARIOS, WHICH GIVE KIDS A CHANCE TO PRACTICE INTERACTIONS THEY'LL HAVE OUT IN THE WORLD. THERE IS ALSO AMPLE OPPORTUNITY HERE FOR MATH AND READING!

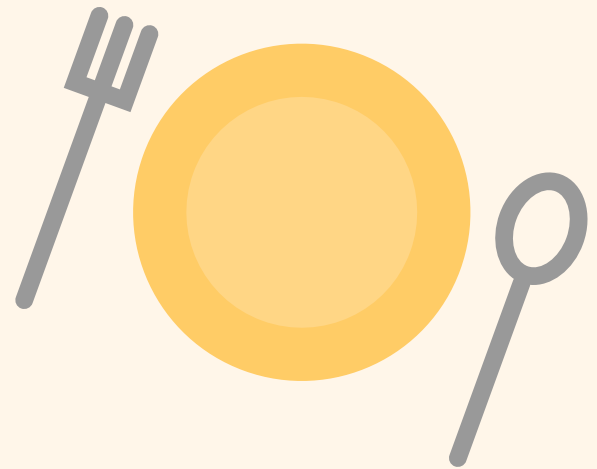
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# SPECIAL DINNER GUEST

LET YOUR CHILD HOST YOU AT THEIR HOME FOR A SPECIAL MEAL! GIVE CHILDREN A CHANCE TO EXPLORE THE HOST/GUEST RELATIONSHIP IN A PRESSURE-FREE SPACE.

## MATERIALS

- PLAY FOOD
- DINNERWARE



## DIRECTIONS

1. LET YOUR CHILD CHOOSE THE MENU AND DELIGHT YOU WITH A PRETEND MEAL THEY'VE PREPARED!
2. BE SURE TO COMPLIMENT YOUR HOST ON THEIR DELICIOUS COOKING AND THANK THEM FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.
3. SWITCH ROLES! SEE IF YOUR CHILD REPEATS SOME OF THE SOCIAL NICETIES YOU'VE MODELED FOR THEM.

## SPICE THINGS UP

EXPAND UPON THE GUEST STORYLINE TO INCLUDE A MORE COMPLEX PRETEND PLAY STORY ABOUT WHO YOU ARE AND WHY YOU'RE VISITING.

## JUST A TASTE

INSTEAD OF A FULL MEAL, MAKE IT TEA TIME!

## WHY THIS GAME IS GREAT

MODELING POLITE HOST AND GUEST BEHAVIOR HELPS YOUR CHILD EXPLORE REAL-WORLD BEHAVIOR IN A FUN AND SAFE SPACE. NOT TO MENTION THIS MIGHT RESULT IN GREATER CHEF-APPRECIATION DURING MEALTIME!

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## FUTURE "FOODIE" CHALLENGE

CUT OFF PICKY EATING AT THE PASS WITH THIS GAME DESIGNED TO EXPAND KIDS' COMFORT LEVEL WITH NEW FOODS.



### MATERIALS

- PLAY FOOD
- REAL FOOD

### DIRECTIONS

1. PICK OUT PRETEND FOOD YOUR KIDS WOULDN'T USUALLY EAT (I.E. BROCCOLI, LEAFY GREENS)
2. CHALLENGE THEM TO CREATE A PRETEND DISH USING THESE FOODS
3. ONCE THEY'VE PLAYED WITH THE NEW PRETEND FOODS, TRY INTRODUCING THEIR REAL-LIFE COUNTERPARTS INTO MEALTIME AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO TRY IT.

### SPICE THINGS UP

SEE IF YOUR CHILD CAN "COOK" THE NEW FOOD MULTIPLE WAYS. FOR EXAMPLE, KALE CAN BE KALE CHIPS, SAUTÉED KALE, AND CHEESY KALE DIP.

### JUST A TASTE

PLAY WITH THE NEW FOOD A FEW TIMES BEFORE INTRODUCING IT DURING MEALTIME.

## WHY THIS GAME IS GREAT

EXPOSURE IS KEY WHEN IT COMES TO KIDS TRYING NEW FOODS, AND INTERACTING WITH THEM DURING PLAYTIME IS A GREAT, LOW-PRESSURE INTRODUCTION. THIS GAME ALSO EXPANDS KIDS' FOOD VOCABULARY BY TEACHING THEM ABOUT FARE THEY MAY NOT OTHERWISE KNOW ABOUT.