Why Cook with Children?
“Children practice early math skills through counting, measuring, sequencing of events and understanding of time. They practice small motor skills, improve eye-hand coordination and learn to follow directions. Pre-reading skills are enhanced through numeral, symbol and word recognition.”
Mollie Katzen. Pretend Soup. Author and educator.

Baking with Children Develops
Language and Literacy
Purpose: Help children understand letters and word sounds by having them
• Speak clearly
• Ask and answer questions
• Pay attention to and listen to people and stories
• Follow directions
• Show an interest in books
• Learn about sounds in words
• Recognize letters and numbers
• Draw pictures and try to write and copy letters

Mathematical Thinking
Purpose: Help children understand measurement (size, length, and weight).
• Sort objects by different traits (color, shape, sizes, taste, or texture)
• Use words to describe baking tools and their uses
• Identify and copy simple patterns
• Use words to talk about position (over, under, in, top, bottom, etc.) and order (first, next, last)
• Count objects, ingredients, and how many the recipe serves
• Use words to communicate an understanding of numbers and relationships (more, less, equal)

Scientific Thinking
Purpose: Help children notice things in their world by thinking, asking questions and talking about things! Help children wonder about and investigate (to learn) things by making predictions (guess) and observe (see what actually happens).
• Wonder about things
• Ask questions
• Make predictions (tell what might happen).
• Look, listen, touch, smell, and taste to get information
• Organize information and talk about it
• Compare things by talking about how they are alike and different
• Use words to explain why something happened

 bakeworks:
preschool enrichment &
community service through baking

Home Baking Association Educator Award Recipient, Julie Ratchford
Lesson prepared with Sharon Davis, Family & Consumer Sciences Education. Download lesson at www.homebaking.org

Background: bakeworks, LLC was researched and licensed by preschool educator Julie Ratchford as a multi-sensory enrichment experience for 3, 4 and 5-year-old children.
Over 8 weeks, baking lessons served as a fun motivator to:
• discuss the basic baking ingredient names
• reinforce multiple skills in math, language, literacy, arts, cooperative learning, social and emotional, science and kitchen safety
• encourage students to use newfound food skills to learn what human needs are and benefit those with needs such as the homeless.

Children Learn What They Live, …Get Active in the Kitchen!
The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends:
• no TV or video viewing under the age of 2.
• Read together… 3X a day!
• Play
• Sing
• Rhyme
• Talk about what you’re doing
• Repeat words, sounds
• Make silly names, words for alphabet letters
• Build “do-it-yourself” food skills as part of an active lifestyle
• Eat meals together at least 5-7 times weekly

Visit www.homebaking.org for pre-K and up baking resources!
Getting Started!

Choose a simple baking project. Look at the picture. Connect the food to their body's nutrient needs—how much to eat of the food. Read the recipe together. Have children name and group ingredients. How did they group them? Texture, size, color, shape, smell. Look through a magnifying glass to observe…group items…liquid, solid, powder, soft, hard.

Name all the tools that will be used to prepare the recipe. Show how to do the simple tasks they will do and name what you will do with them. Give a task to every child.

After baking: Describe changes in state or appearance – liquids to solid or gas; expanded, browned, bumpy to smooth, round to flat. Guess, then state what factors made changes occur.

Social & Emotional Development

Purpose: Help your children get along with others in order to make and keep friends.
• Handle emotions
• Express oneself
• Want to learn new things
• Start and finish an activity
• Take responsibility for actions

Go over Thrill of Skill age-appropriate tasks at www.homebaking.org. Tell your children that you’d like to have a tea party. Say, “Let’s make something good to eat and I’ve got a tea set here! I thought we could have a tea party together.” Prepare a simple muffin, scone, bread, fruit tart. Show the items in the tea set and ask the children to help you set the table. Once the table is set, sit down with your children; take the teapot, and say, “Would you like some tea?” Share what the child help prepare or share pretend food.

Use this time to talk! Use open-ended questions to guide your conversation; in other words, ask things that will get them talking. Do not ask yes or no questions. Take time to enjoy sharing food, sitting down, with conversation. Eat slowly! Small bites! Ask each child something to make the conversation include all. You might say, “Tell me about something that made you laugh this week.” or “What do you want to be when you grow up?” This will help teach children how to have a conversation (how to talk and listen to others).

The Arts

Purpose: Let your child try acting! Help your child understand and talk about books. Let your child use different art materials and talk about his work! Help your child practice pre-writing skills and recognize shapes and colors.
• Try different art activities, such as dancing, singing, acting, cooking, baking, painting and drawing.

Baking Develops all Five Senses

• Ask questions about/looking for new ways to dance, make music, act or create.
• Use different art materials such as puppets, costumes, instruments, paint, glue, scissors, crayons, food ingredients.
• Show an interest in other children’s art activities.
• Discover primary and designer colors.
• Create a rainbow of colors by coloring your own sugar. See the sugar color wheel at www.homebaking.org DIY Baking Channel, Quilt Cake.

Read My 5 Senses by Aliki.

• Bake a savory food such as focaccia or Confetti Cornbread. (Download at DIY Baking Channel or Recipes, www.homebaking.org)
• What aromas do you smell, colors and shapes do you see, textures do you see and feel as you receive a portion; What do you hear as you share the food, temperatures and tastes (sweet, spicy, salty, bitter, sour, tsunami . . . )
• Fill a tray with baking tools or ingredients you will use for baking. Have the children study the tray as you name the tools or ingredients. Close your eyes – remove one item. Can they name what is removed? Repeat.
Goals, Outcomes and Evaluation Methods

**Goal**
Discuss basic human needs and how helping those with needs shows concern for others

**Outcome:** Children will identify basic needs, tell what it means to be without, and donate a portion of what they bake or ingredients to a shelter or feeding program
**Evaluation Method:** Children will name and circle pictures of basic needs, orally express what it means to be without

**Discuss the main ingredients in most baked goods**

**Outcome:** Children will identify flour/meal, sugar, butter, eggs, leavening
**Evaluation Method:** Children will name and circle pictures of the main ingredients

**Follow directions and participate in the baking activity**

**Outcome:** Children will follow teacher directions and recipe steps in order to create the baked product; children will communicate questions, answers and comments effectively to teacher and peers
**Evaluation Method:** Teacher assessment of participation and communication skills

**Use numbers and counting skills in baking process**

**Outcome:** Children will participate in math-related parts of the baking process such as: How many eggs are we using? What ingredient did we put into the bowl first? Next? How long are we baking the muffins? Count how many cookies the recipe made. How many ounces or grams does one (cookie/muffin/pancake) weigh? Which (cookie/muffin/pancake) is bigger? Smaller? Does each (cookie/muffin/pancake) weigh the same amount?
**Evaluation Method:** Teacher assessment of participation

**To work effectively as a group and demonstrate effective communication skills**

**Outcome:** Children will participate as part of a group and at age-appropriate level by listening, taking turns, helping, sharing with other group members
**Evaluation Method:** Teacher observation/assessment of cooperative learning skills

**To model and practice food and kitchen safety skills**

**Outcome:** Students will name two to four steps for kitchen and food safety independently or from pictures. Children will follow food and kitchen safety guidelines. Download Safe Kitchen Checklist at [www.homebaking.org](http://www.homebaking.org). Also resources at [www.itsasnap.org](http://www.itsasnap.org)
**Evaluation Method:** Oral/picture/on-site assessment of four kitchen safety tips; teacher observation of adherence to guidelines

**To describe the baking experience and baked products as they relate to the five senses using words and/or pictures**

**Outcome:** At the end of the lesson, as a group children will complete a graphic organizer that describes sensory experiences the children had throughout the baking process
**Evaluation Method:** Child’s contribution to graphic organizer

**Book and Bake!**
Theme-related books to introduce the recipe activity or to read while products bake.

- **All in Just One Cookie.** Susan Goodman
- **Baker, Baker, Cookie Maker.** Linda Hayward
- **Beverly Billingsly Takes the Cake.** Alexander Stadler
- **Bread, Bread, Bread.** Ann Morris
- **Bunny Cakes.** Rosemary Wells
- **Cook-a-Doodle-Doo.** Janet Stevens & Susan Stevens Crummel
- **Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons.** Amy Krouse Rosenthal
- **Eight Animals Bake a Cake.** Susan Middleton Elya
- **Froggy Bakes a Cake.** Jonathan London
- **Maisy Makes Gingerbread.** Lucy Cousins
- **May I Please Have a Cookie?** Jennifer E. Morris
- **Miss Spider's Tea Party.** David Kirk
- **Ruth's Bake Shop.** Kate Spohn
- **Sun Bread.** Elisa Kleven
- **The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza.** Philemon Sturges
- **The Runaway Pumpkin.** Kevin Lewis
- **The Very Hungry Caterpillar.** Eric Carle
- **Tractor.** Craig Brown
- **Warthogs in the Kitchen.** Pamela Duncan Edwards

**Welcome Books. (Beans to Chocolate; Grapes to Raisins; Grains to Bread)** Inez Snyder
- **Up! Up! Up! It's Apple Picking Time!** Jody Fickes Shapiro

- Also visit [Book and Bake](http://www.homebaking.org) at [www.homebaking.org](http://www.homebaking.org)
- University Cooperative Extension Office... [www.learningandlivingwell.org](http://www.learningandlivingwell.org)
Sample Baking Activity Timeline

11:30 to 12:00 Clean and set up workspace. With ingredients, tools, supplies for groups/teams

12:00 to 12:20 Children wash and eat lunch. While eating, read/share recipe, name and show ingredients, tools and interesting information/pictures about how or where an ingredient is grown.

12:20 to 12:30 Bathroom break and wash hands.

12:30 to 1:16 Measure, mix and bake.
  - Group children, 4 per leader. Read through recipe with children as needed
  - Have children help check to see if their group has tools, ingredients for recipe
  - Follow the recipe, explaining basic ingredients, how-to measure; let children help add ingredients, stir, whisk, grease pan…each one doing an age-appropriate task

1:15 to 1:30 Story time.

While baked goods are in the oven, children listen to baking-related story with guided comments and questions; weekly note home about the activity can be filled out by helper

1:30 to 1:45 Additional skills practice and clean up.

Examples: Cut out steps in recipe with key words, scramble them and have children help put them in the right order: do a memory game with tools/ingredients on a tray. (Clean-up: Use spatula or bowl scraper to scrape flour, ingredients into waste basket, then wipe down tables. Children can help with both!)

1:45 to 2:00 Tasting, describing, and conclusions.

- Have children sit together and taste an appropriate serving of what they baked. Practice good manners! Have them describe the aroma, taste (sweet, sour, salty, bitter, spicy, savory…), and texture(s), sights, and sounds of the baked product and baking it.
- Review daily activities and pack take-home container to send with children to share their baked goods with their families. Refrigerate if needed.

Vocabulary and Skill Building

Assist children to hear, see and identify the tools, terms and activities they’ll use while baking! Show ingredient examples and circle/point to the five basic ingredients: flour, eggs, butter, sugar, leavening

- **Measuring cups and spoons**: Containers that are marked with fractions and numbers for the amount of liquid or dry ingredient to measure for a recipe. Show liquid measuring cup and dry measuring cups and measuring spoons.

- **Mixing**: Stir, usually with a spoon, until the ingredients are well-combined (no individual ingredients can be identified).

- **Recipe**: The list of ingredients and directions you read and use to prepare a food. Read together the recipe you will prepare!

- **Stir**: Using a spoon to mix ingredients with a circular or figure-eight motion.

This conversation is not just about weight or size or BMI. It’s about overall health and the kind of lives that we want our kids to lead. We’ve got to set them up for success.” Michelle Obama

Learn more: National AfterSchool Association Core Standards, 2012.

www.naaweb.org
# Teacher Observation Checklist

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<tr>
<td>Child participated in math-related parts of baking process such as how many? How do we measure? How long does the food bake? etc.</td>
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<td>Child participated in group at an age-appropriate level by listening, taking turns, helping, and sharing</td>
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<td>Child contributed to completion of graphic organizer by describing his/her sensory experiences using words or pictures</td>
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## Final Assessment for (Name) ___________________________ Date ____________

Download a copy of the **Baking Skills Checklist** at [www.homebaking.org](http://www.homebaking.org) for each child. Over the weeks, check off each skill the child’s gained. Send home a copy of the checklist for each child to fill out, with the **Thrill of Skill** guide, and **Safe Kitchen Checklist** and the following final assessment so parents can see what their children can do and how they can continue building skills together at home!

**Your child has**

- Named and/or circled pictures of basic human needs *(food, water, air, clothing, shelter).*
- Orally expressed what it means to be homeless *(having no home).*
- Named or circled pictures of the five main ingredients used in making baked goods *(flour and/or meal; sugar; butter; eggs; leavening).*
- Participated in the math-related parts of the baking process such as how many? How do we measure the ingredient(s)?
- Followed teacher directions and recipe steps in order *(sequence)* to create final baked product.
- Communicated questions, answers, and comments effectively to the teacher and to other children.
- Participated as part of a group at an age-appropriate level by listening, taking turns, helping, and sharing with other group members.
- Followed kitchen safety rules. *(See **Safe Kitchen Check List** at [www.homebaking.org](http://www.homebaking.org)).*
- Identified 2 to 4 kitchen safety tips *(independently or from pictures).*
- Contributed to the completion of the graphic organizer by describing his/her sensory experiences using words and/or pictures.
- Donated a portion of his/her baked goods to homeless or emergency shelter(s).

Teacher comments:

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“If children are raised to feel uncomfortable in the kitchen, they will be at a disadvantage for life.”


Visit [www.homebaking.org](http://www.homebaking.org) for guide: The **Thrill of Skill** age-appropriate tasks.
Fruit Wholegrain Bars

Makes 9 X 13-inch pan (20 bars)

Children love creating their own whole grain fruit granola bars!

Ingredients

**Crust and topping:**
1 cup whole wheat flour  
⅔ cup packed brown sugar  
¼ teaspoon salt  
6 tablespoons unsalted butter  
1/3 cup flax meal, or 2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
2 ½ cups quick oatmeal  
2 tablespoons orange or apple juice

**Filling***:
¼ cup dark brown sugar  
2 tablespoons flour or 1 tablespoon corn-starch  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
3 ½ cups (18 oz.) fresh or frozen fruit (blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, cherries, cut-up firm peaches)  
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

*Omit sugar and flour or cornstarch; combine fruit, lemon juice and one, 12-oz. can Solo® cake & pastry filling

Directions:
1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease a 9 X 13-inch pan.
2. In the bowl of a food processor, pulse the flour, sugar and salt. Cut the butter in cubes, and add with the flax meal; pulse five or six more times. Add the oats and pulse a couple more times.
3. Remove 2 cups of the oatmeal mixture. Then add the juice and pulse until moistened. Press this mixture into the greased pan.
4. For the fruit filling: Whisk together the sugar, flour or cornstarch and salt, *OR alternative Solo filling. Lightly stir in with the fruit and lemon juice to coat. Spoon the fruit mixture evenly over the bottom crust.
5. Sprinkle the remaining crumb mixture over the top and bake until golden on top, about 40 minutes.
6. Cool the bars on a wire cooling rack, about 1 ½ to 2 hours.
7. Cut into 20 (2 oz/61g) bars. Store bars in a tightly sealed container in the refrigerator or freezer.

Source: Sharon Davis, Family and Consumer Sciences education, www.homebaking.org

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**Nutrition Facts**

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Vitamin A 2%  •  Vitamin C 8%
Calcium 2%  •  Iron 6%

* Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

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**What can the children do?**
- Grease pan (View demo at www.becomeabetterbaker.com)
- Add butter cubes and premeasured dry ingredients to food processor
- Whisk
- Press mixture into pan
- Spread filling over crust
- Sprinkle crumb mixture over top
- Count bars
- Deliver to homeless shelter
- Kids help save $$$ at home with DIY Granola Bars!
No Oven? Bake with table top appliances. See Portable Kitchens at www.homebaking.org. Here's a recipe to get started:

**Recipes:**

Fluffy Corn Cakes
Makes 24, (2oz/55g) corn cakes

**Nutrition Facts**

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Vitamin A 10% • Vitamin C 4%
Calium 3% • Iron 15%

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Vitamin A 4% • Vitamin C 0%
Calium 6% • Iron 2%

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**Ingredients**

- 1 cup whole wheat flour—stir, spoon and level
- ½ cup all-purpose flour—stir, spoon and level
- ½ cup white or yellow cornmeal, enriched or wholegrain
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon (dash) salt
- 2 well beaten eggs
- 1, 15 oz. can cream-style corn or fresh corn cut off cob (2 cups)
- 2 cups 1% milk
- ¼ cup melted butter or vegetable oil

Optional: Syrup or honey

**Directions**

1. In large mixing bowl combine flours, cornmeal, baking powder and salt. Whisk to blend.
2. In medium mixing bowl, use whisk to beat eggs well; add cream-style or fresh corn, milk and melted butter.
3. Brush a griddle with oil and preheat to medium high, 350-375 ° F.
4. Stir corn mixture into dry ingredients, mixing quickly.
5. Bake on lightly greased griddle or skillet until golden brown, turning once.
6. Keep warm on plate in the oven until all are cooked. Serve plain or with syrup or honey.

Source: River Bend Council Camp Fire Council, Elaine Veevaete & Kathy Horn, Staff, leader/volunteer.
Recipe tested and nutrition analysis by Sharon Davis, FACS Education, www.homebaking.org

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**One-Dish Italian Meatball and Cheese Pizza Bake**
Makes 6 servings

**Batter**

1 cup whole wheat flour*
¼ cup all-purpose flour
2 ¼ oz. envelopes (4 ½ teaspoons) fast-rising yeast
2 teaspoons sugar
½ teaspoon salt
¾ cup very warm water (120° F.)
2 tablespoons olive OR vegetable oil

**Directions**

1. Mix batter ingredients in a pre-sprayed 9-½ inch deep dish pie plate OR batter may be mixed in a separate bowl, then spread in sprayed pie plate.
2. With lightly greased hands or back of spoon, press the batter to cover the bottom of the pan evenly.
3. Top dough with meatballs, firmly pushing meatballs into batter. Mix garlic, and seasonings with the pizza or tomato sauce and pour over meatballs. Sprinkle with cheese.
4. Bake by placing the pan in a cold oven; set temperature to 350° F. Bake for 30 minutes or until done (180° at center).

*OR 1 ¼ cup all-purpose flour; total may be used.** Reduce sodium by preparing meatballs from scratch with less salt; use reduced salt tomato sauce.

**Topping**

- 18 to 20 small, cooked meatballs** (about 8 oz) (thaw, if frozen)
- ¾ cup tomato or pizza sauce
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon Italian Herb Seasoning
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded mozzarella and provolone cheeses

**What can the children do?**

- Stir and spoon flour into cup; level off flour; pour flour into pan or bowl. Stir yeast, sugar and salt into flour and mix well. Add water and oil.
- Press meatballs into batter. Spoon sauce over meatballs. Sprinkle cheese over surface.
- Turn oven to 350 °F.

*Reduced sodium by preparing meatballs from scratch with less salt; use reduced salt tomato sauce.

**Nutrition Facts**

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**What can the children do?**

- Stir and spoon flour into cup; level off flour; pour flour into pan or bowl. Stir yeast, sugar and salt into flour and mix well. Add water and oil.
- Press meatballs into batter. Spoon sauce over meatballs. Sprinkle cheese over surface.
- Turn oven to 350 °F.

One-Dish Italian Meatball and Cheese Pizza Bake recipe provided courtesy of Fleischmann’s Yeast. Visit www.becomeabetterbaker.com for more!
Coconut-Caramel Triangles

Makes one 11 X 17-inch pan; 2 ½ dozen (2 oz/61g) triangles

Ingredients
1 cup (2 sticks) salted butter, room temperature
3 cups packed dark-brown sugar
2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour (may be half whole wheat flour)
2 cups sweetened shredded coconut
2 teaspoons baking powder
4 large eggs, lightly beaten
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
2 cups finely chopped toasted almonds

*To toast almonds: Place slivered or sliced almonds on pan; bake or toast on stovetop over medium (350°F) heat, stirring often until golden (about 10-15 minutes).

Directions
1. Preheat oven to 350° F.
2. In a medium bowl, beat together butter, 1 cup brown sugar, 2 cups flour until mixture comes together to form a dough. Press evenly into a rimmed baking half-sheet pan (11 X 17-in).
3. Bake just until golden, about 15 minutes. Remove from oven; let cool on wire rack briefly.
4. While cooling, pulse coconut in a food processor several times, until coarsely chopped, then transfer into a large bowl. Stir in remaining 2 cups brown sugar and ¼ cup flour, baking powder, eggs, vanilla and nuts. Spread mixture over cooled crust.
5. Bake, rotating sheet halfway through until crust is golden brown and filling is set, about 20 minutes.
6. Remove from oven; transfer to wire rack to cool completely. Cut into triangles with serrated knife.
7. Store up to 2 days in an airtight container at room temperature or freeze as soon as cooled.

Nutrition Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Per Serving</th>
<th>Servings Per Container</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calories 200</td>
<td>Calories from Fat 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Daily Value*</td>
<td>Total Fat 14g</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturated Fat 6g</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trans Fat 0g</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cholesterol 40mg</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sodium 120mg</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Carbohydrate 35g</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dietary Fiber 2g</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sugars 25g</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Protein 4g</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vitamin A 6%</td>
<td>Vitamin C 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium 6%</td>
<td>Iron 8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Resources and References:

A Baker’s Dozen DVD (130+ baking how-tos demonstrated) and lab manual (science, activities for all ages) for training, parent-child activities and service learning. [www.homebaking.org](http://www.homebaking.org)

Healthy Beginnings: Supporting Development and Learning from Birth through Three Years of Age. [http://www.marylandhealthybeginnings.org/](http://www.marylandhealthybeginnings.org/)
Maryland State Dept. of Education and Johns Hopkins University School of Education. 2010.

Home Baking Association [www.homebaking.org](http://www.homebaking.org) offers these resources
- [Bake for Family Fun](http://www.homebaking.org) on-line, age-appropriate food activities
- [Baking with Friends](http://www.homebaking.org)—Recipes, Tips and Fun Facts for Teaching Kids to Bake
- [Baking Glossary](http://www.homebaking.org) with links and how-to video clips
- [Book and Bake](http://www.homebaking.org) downloadable lessons
- [Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Baking Channel](http://www.homebaking.org) videos and downloadable recipes
- [Portable Kitchen blueprint, tips and resources](http://www.homebaking.org)
- [Test kitchen help, links, child-focused recipes and how-tos—click on Members](http://www.homebaking.org)

**What can the children do?**
Measure and add butter, brown sugar, flour to the mixing bowl. Press the dough into the pan. Add ingredients to food processor bowl and pulse; stir; spread. Older children can help cut into triangles with a pizza wheel.