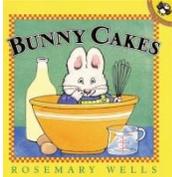


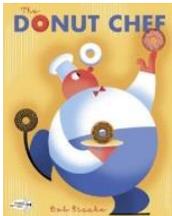
Dig in to some great books about cooking with kids at your Read-Aloud. Then whip up a tasty dish to share.



Bunny Cakes by Rosemary Wells

Ages 3 to 5

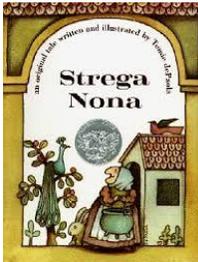
Follow Max and Ruby as they attempt to make a cake for their grandma's birthday. With the simple text and classic illustrations, this book will be appropriate for a younger audience.



The Donut Chef by Bob Staake

Ages 3 to 7

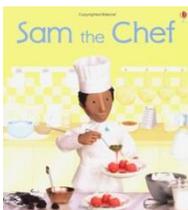
This cautionary tale describes a doughnut chef who nearly forgets the importance of simplicity when trying to out do a competitor. The rhyming text, doughnut names like "Goopy Cocoa-Mocha Silk" and the colorful illustrations will make this a fun book to read aloud.



Strega Nona by Tomie DePaola

Ages 5 to 9

Strega Nona has a magic pasta pot, and she's warned Big Anthony not to touch it while she is out of town. But Big Anthony can't resist, and once he gets the pot going, he can't get it to stop. This out-of-control cooking story will get kids talking about cooking disasters and oodles of noodles.



Sam the Chef by Felicity Brooks and Keith Newell

Ages 9 and up

Follow Sam the chef as he prepares his restaurant for a visit from an important group of people. The detailed clay artwork helps to explain the work and the mishaps that happen behind-the-scenes in a restaurant.

More cooking books

Feast for Ten by Cathryn Falwell

Ages 3 to 6

The Knight and the Dragon by Tomie DePaola

Ages 3 to 6

Pizza Party by Grace Maccarone
Ages 3 to 6

The Little Red Hen by Byron Barton or Jerry Pinkney
Ages 3 to 8

How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World by Marjorie Priceman
Ages 5 to 8

Cook-a-Doodle-Do! By Janet Stevens
Ages 5 to 10

Stone Soup by Jon Muth or other authors
Ages 8 to 12

Thunder Cake by Patricia Palacco
Ages 10 to 12

For additional books and activities, check out these Reading Rockets Reading Adventure Packs:

- Cooking: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/42474>
- Food: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/31249>
- **Green Eggs and Ham:** <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/31249>

Activities

If you want to take this opportunity to cook at your Read-Aloud, confirm ahead of time that cooking and/or food is allowed at your site. Ask the site staff about any known food allergies or restrictions among the kids. Limit handling knives or sharp objects to volunteers.

1. Make a simple no-cook dish with the kids, such as Garden Pasta Salad (see below for recipe), fruit salad or fruit kabobs. If your site has kitchen facilities or if you want to bring an electric skillet, you might consider making stone soup, vegetable stir-fry, quesadillas, tacos, mini-muffins or mini-pizzas.

If your cooking project needs cooking time — for example, if you want to bake mini-muffins — cook at the beginning of the Read-Aloud. The muffins or soup can cook while you are reading, and then everyone can have a taste while kids choose their books.

Garden pasta salad

Ingredients:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - green onions | - diced peppers |
| - fresh basil | - fresh shredded parmesan cheese |
| - cherry tomatoes | - olive oil |
| - shredded zucchini or summer squash | - cooked pasta |

Bring precooked pasta. The kids can tear the basil, cut the green onions with scissors or kitchen shears, and squish (or halve) the cherry tomatoes. A volunteer should cut peppers and anything else that requires a knife. Put the cooked pasta on top of the prepared vegetables in a big bowl. Stir and add a few glugs of olive oil and the cheese. Add salt and pepper to taste

2. If food isn't allowed at your site, bring white paper plates for the kids along with markers, magazines with pictures of food, scissors and glue. Encourage the kids to create their favorite meal on the plate by drawing or making a collage.
3. Set up your Read-Aloud space like a restaurant, and put kids to work seating folks, taking orders, making pretend food (or dishing out snacks), serving the "food" and cleaning up. The following website has some good ideas: [http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Your-Room-Into-a-Restaurant-\(for-Kids\)](http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Your-Room-Into-a-Restaurant-(for-Kids)).

Conversation Starters

1. Where, other than restaurants, do chefs and cooks work?
2. At what kind of restaurant would you like to eat?
3. If you owned a restaurant, what kind of food would you serve?
4. What is your favorite food that a family member makes?
5. Have you ever cooked something? What is your favorite food to cook?