

ABC SNACKS: Tips for Working on Pre-Reading Skills

by Marie Rippel

The ABC Snacks series is perfect for slipping in important pre-reading skills while engaging in a tasty hands-on activity. Pick and choose ideas from this list, and you'll effortlessly increase your child's pre-reading skills!

Print Awareness

- Download and print the ABC Snacks Cookbook cover ([Color](#)) ([B&W](#)) and allow your child to write his name on it. Add each recipe you create to your child's cookbook.
- Run your finger under the words on the recipe cards to show that you are reading the words on the paper. Have your child share the recipe with a family member or friend. Highlight the fact that his friend can make and enjoy the same tasty treat by reading and creating the recipe.
- Point out matching words when possible. For example, show your child the word *flour* on the recipe sheet. Then compare this to the word *flour* printed on the bag of flour.

Letter Knowledge

- As you create each recipe, use snack ingredients to form the letter of the alphabet that the snack begins with.
- Show your child the first letter of the recipe title. For example: "Ants Go Munching. Ants starts with A!"
- Have your child search for the featured letter, both upper- and lowercase, in the snack recipe.

Phonological Awareness

- Say the name of the recipe you are preparing and emphasize the first sound of the words in the title. For example: "Z...z...zany zucchini. Zucchini starts with /z/!"
- Choose a particular sound and emphasize words in the recipe that begin with that sound. For example, for /m/, search for words like *mix*, *measure*, *make*, *milk*, *mash*, and *melt*. For /s/, look for words like *stir*, *salt*, *slice*, *simmer*, *sugar*, or *steam*.

Listening Comprehension

- Have your child help you gather the ingredients.
- Read the recipe instructions aloud and have your child complete the steps that he is able to do, such as stir the batter or add the raisins.
- Begin by giving one instruction at a time, such as “Please bring me a big spoon,” and then build up to two-part instructions, such as “Please bring me two bananas and a spoon.”
- Have your child explain the recipe to a family member or friend.

Motivation to Read

- Share your own enthusiasm for reading recipes and cooking with your child. Let your child see how exciting it is to be able to read and create recipes together.
- As you and your child enjoy the snacks you have created together, point out that you have to be able to read in order to follow a recipe and make yummy snacks.
- Look at some other cookbooks, preferably those with color photographs. Explore the recipes together and talk about special foods that you might make in the future.

For the full line-up of ABC Snacks, go to www.abc-snacks.com.