

# Writing Recipes with Kindergarten Kids



Images from <http://www.scrapindoodles.com>

## **Introduction:**

Every year, we do a cooking unit in kindergarten. I love to give the kids the experience to cook, bake, and try foods that they may not have tried before. Many of my kindergarten students are regulars in the kitchen, and some kids will look at the mixer, in delight, and say, "I've never done this before!" I love being the person who gives kids the opportunity to experience the art of cooking and baking.

Aside from just being a fun kindergarten activity, the learning experiences we provide help students meet many of our state standards.

During our cooking unit, we...

- \*use appropriate style in our writing and illustrations.

- \*write in a variety of forms and genres.

- \*write for a variety of audiences and purposes.

- \*understand that writing can be changed.

- \*use pictures to plan our writing.

- \*practice writing a sequence of events.

In this packet, you will find a brief description of some of the cooking activities we do during the unit. You will find cookbook suggestions, and read about a few experiences I've had with my own children, cooking in our home kitchen. You will be given examples that you can share with your students, when they are ready to write their own recipes. There are even blank pages, which you will be able to print, if your child needs help getting started in their writing.

## **How We Begin:**

I love cooking and baking with my own kids, at home. We have quite an extensive children's cookbook collection. If you're interested in adding to your cookbook collection, or just looking for suggestions to pick up at the public library, check out

my Pinterest board. <http://pinterest.com/beccaross/favorite-cookbooks-for-kids/>  
You'll find plenty of inspiration!

We start off with our book frenzy. Basically, our cookbook frenzy is a chance to browse through as many different cookbooks as we have time for, in an atmosphere of controlled chaos. We start by passing out the books, one for each child. They browse through the book, looking for things that look yummy, recipes they'd love to try, and things they may notice about cookbooks in general. There's usually a buzz of kids saying, "Oh, yummy! Look at this!" Every 30 seconds, or so, I ring the bell and ask the kids to pass their book to the next person. We spend a few minutes, browsing and passing books around the circle, until kids start to lose focus.

At home, our book frenzy is much more controlled. My kids and I sit on the floor of the family room, spread out the books, and start looking through. I give my kids a pile of sticky notes and ask them to put a note on a few recipes they'd like to try. I encourage them to find a variety, not just yummy desserts.

### **Ready to Cook:**

In my kindergarten class, we try to cook, bake, or prepare at least one thing each week during our unit. We start with chocolate chip cookies, because they're yummy and make the room smell fantastic! We usually make baked zucchini, pancakes, fish bowl crackers with frosted rice cakes and fishy crackers, and cheese pizza. Sometimes kids get to make their own, individual snack, and other times it's a whole class project.



At home, I let my kids choose their own recipes and then we shop. I usually have the kids make my grocery list and have them take a trip to the store with me.

Some recipes require lots of adult supervision, while others are very kid friendly. As often as possible, I try to get out of the way and let the kids do as much as they can. It's a good opportunity for them to grow.

### **Writing About Cooking:**

Writing recipes or writing about the cooking process, requires lots of experience with cookbooks. The more kids are exposed to the genre of cookbooks, the more comfortable they will be with writing their own directions. I'm always asking kids what they notice, as they look through different recipes. Kids usually notice that recipes have a title, pictures, ingredients, and a sequence of events (or directions).

As kids get ready to write, I ask them to start small. We'll begin by drawing a picture of something they like to make, or have made for them, and labeling with words. Then, we move onto pictures, labels, and a few ingredients. Finally, I ask them to draw pictures, write labels, draw and label their ingredients, and show their sequence of events. Wow! That's a lot of work for a kindergartener!

As you're writing with a 5 or 6 year old, it's important to remember that this is probably their first experience with writing directions for a recipe. We're not looking for perfection. We're looking for evidence that kids are beginning to understand this genre. For example, they may not know all of the ingredients that go into chocolate chip cookies. They might remember 3 ingredients and that's just fine. They can write those down and draw a picture. As they're writing directions, they may just say mix, bake, and cool. That's fine too! Many of my students start off by copying my sample or copying words from a cookbook. This is a great starting point for many kids. Praising any attempt kids make in their writing will keep it fun!

### **Printables and Samples:**

The next few pages will include pairs of printables, a blank printable and a sample of how to use the form. Doing this activity *with* your child is great. I made the samples with computer clip art, so you would get an idea of what we're looking for. (The clip art is much cuter than my drawings would be.) All clip art is from scrapindoodles.com, where I'm an affiliate member. Happy cooking and writing!

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1	2
3	4

# Chocolate Chip Cookies



Flour



sugar



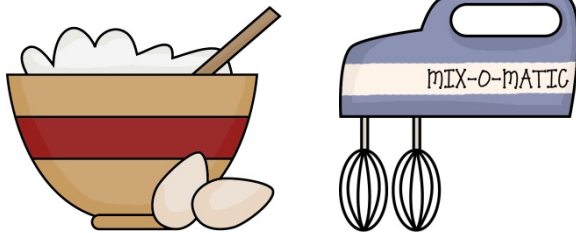
vanilla



eggs

1

Mix



2

Bake



3

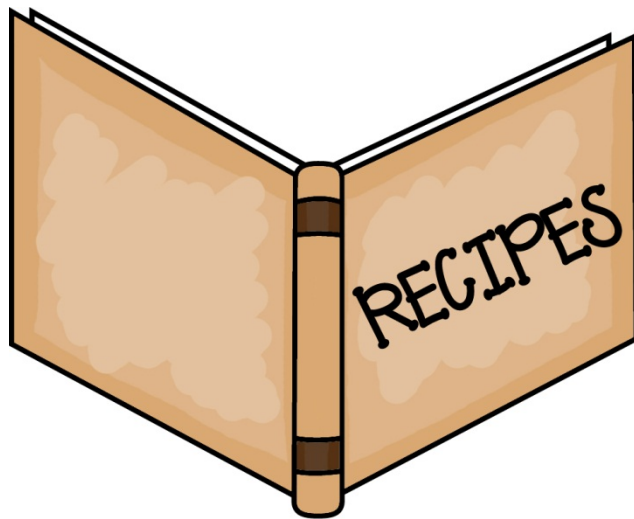
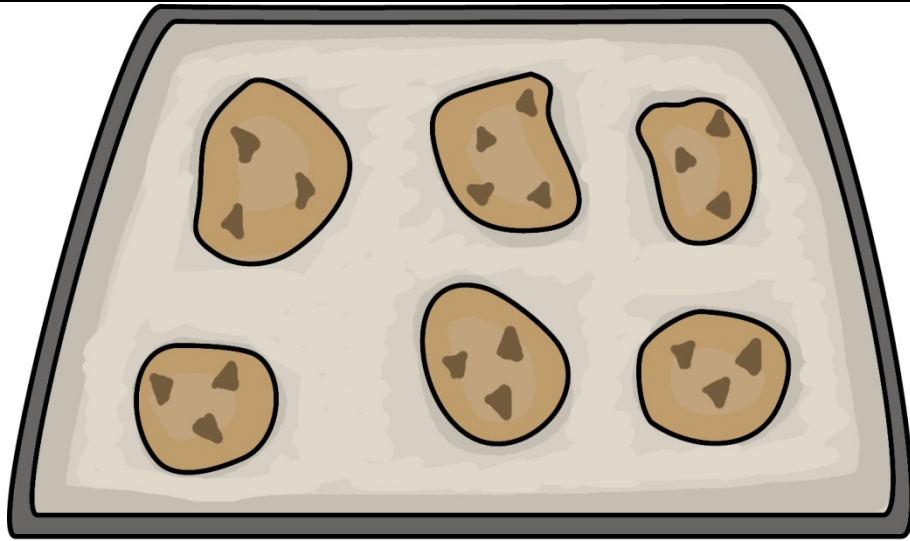
Cool



4

Eat





I made cookies with mom.

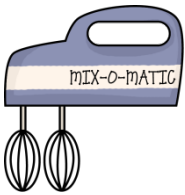




# How To Make Cookies



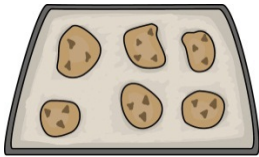
Put the ingredients in a bowl.



Mix them up.



Put them in the oven.



Eat the cookies.
