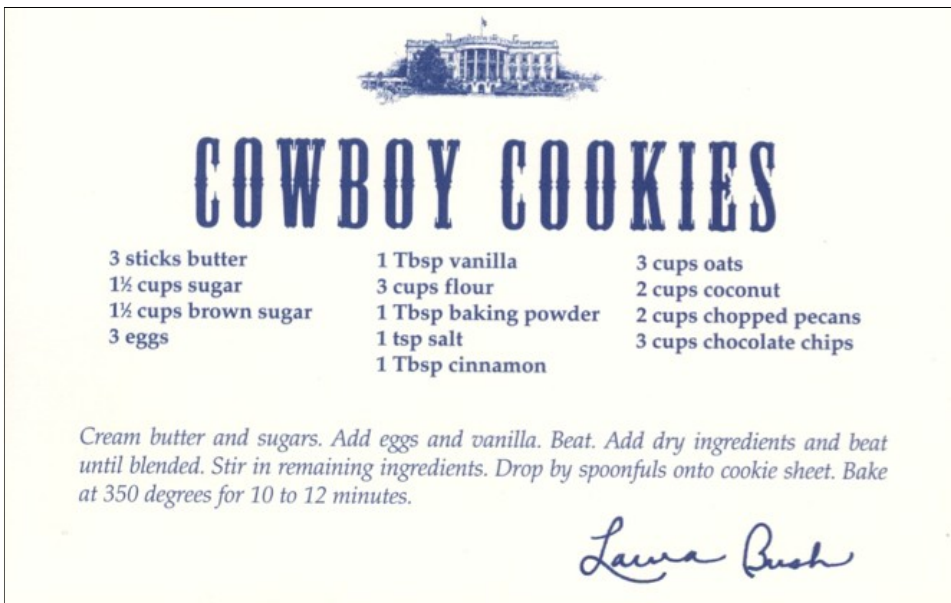


Kitchen Math for Early Learners

Activity 1—making a recipe

1. Let the child help count, add, stir, and measure.
2. Let the child help grease the pan if the recipe calls for it (have plenty paper towels/napkins ready), then put the dough on the pan. You may have a golf ball or similar item to show how much dough to use for each cookie. Remember, the dough will be cooked, so don't worry about germs added to the dough (unless it gets dropped on the floor or something!).
3. When the cookies are done, give the child plenty of praise, in front of others, and help the child share the cookies. Even better if there are a few or several people, so you can help the child decide how many each person or family can have (such as friends, relatives, neighbors).
4. Sample recipe:

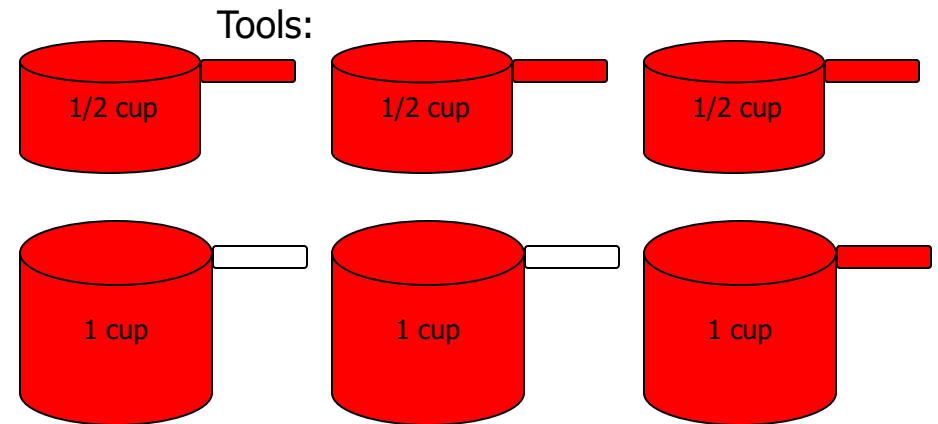


COWBOY COOKIES

3 sticks butter	1 Tbsp vanilla	3 cups oats
1½ cups sugar	3 cups flour	2 cups coconut
1½ cups brown sugar	1 Tbsp baking powder	2 cups chopped pecans
3 eggs	1 tsp salt	3 cups chocolate chips
	1 Tbsp cinnamon	

Cream butter and sugars. Add eggs and vanilla. Beat. Add dry ingredients and beat until blended. Stir in remaining ingredients. Drop by spoonfuls onto cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes.

Laura Bush



Method:

- Let the child unwrap and add 3 sticks of butter or margarine, counting as they are added.
- Use a 1/2 cup measurer for the sugar, and let the child count and add 3 for the white sugar, and 3 for the brown sugar. If you have enough measurers, or draw them on paper, you can ask, “3 white sugars, plus 3 brown sugars makes how many sugars in all?” (have the child count to find the answer).
- If you have patience you can let the child carefully break the eggs and add (be ready with napkins), in any case, count them as they are added.
- Similarly, add the other ingredients, counting as they are added. You may note the size difference between the half cup measurers and the whole cup measurers (the half cup measurers are half as big), but at this point, no need to expound further.
- If you substitute margarine for butter, use all white sugar instead of part brown, leave out the coconut or nuts, or substitute walnuts for pecans, explain why to the child, whether for economy or allergies/dislikes.

Kitchen Math for Early Learners

Activity 2—counting the cuts and pieces

1. When cutting apples, pizza, or any other food, let the child see how many. When you cut one in two, you have 2 pieces, etc. When you cut again, you can have 4 pieces, and so forth.
2. Show the difference between cutting something in 2 unequal pieces, and cutting it in half. How would each person feel about getting the unequal pieces?

Activity 3—setting the table

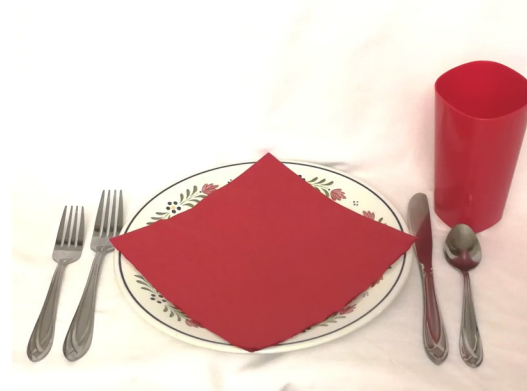
1. Ask how many people will be eating. Let the child count, or help you count on fingers.
2. Let the child set a plate for each person, and make sure there is a chair for each person. Let the child set a glass and a napkin for each person. Let the child count out the right number of knives and set them by the plates, then forks, then spoons.

Activity 4—sing as you clean

1. As you clean up after a meal, you can sing counting songs, or practice counting. You may say every other number and let the child fill in the others.
2. As you or your child or a sibling brushes teeth or hair, you can count to 10 for each quadrant.
3. As you have your child help sort the laundry into lights, medium, darks, jeans, underwear, or whatever categories you use, let your child count the number of clothes in each batch. Similarly, when they come out of the dryer.

Activity 5—getting groceries, and errands

1. Let your child count items as you add them to your grocery cart, and as you put them away.
2. How many eggs are in a dozen?
3. As you drive, watch for numbers, playing “I Spy”.
4. As you drive to and from the store, count the number of red cars, or stop signs, or pick-up trucks . . . Or anything that will capture the child’s interest. You may stop at 10 or so. You can alternate between math activities and reading activities as you drive to and fro.



Activity 6—comparing contents/estimating

1. Gather an assortment of jars, bottles, containers of various sorts.
2. Fill a one cup liquid measuring cup with water (optionally colored).
3. Have the child guess which containers will hold more, and which will hold less water than the one cup measurer.
4. Option: how many beans, jelly beans, marbles, etc. fit in the one cup, and/or the other containers?