

Get This!

Calling Kids to the Kitchen

When a child begins to show the markings of a young chef, it's important to foster that interest early! Before the ease of prepackaged treats and the accessibility of convenience food sings its siren song, introduce kids first to the pleasures and rewards of real cooking. From prepping the mix and crafting the plate to consuming something delicious that they made by themselves – engaging a child's interest in the kitchen is a great recipe for cultivating their nutritional education and expanding tastes. The following items are recommended early introductions to cooking for the kids with culinary interests!

Recommending the Best Toys and Products for Kids

by Gerry Paige Smith

Curious Chef 16-Piece Cupcake Set (Curious Chef)

There are no half measures when it comes to cooking with Curious Chef. This 16-piece Cupcake Set includes a 6-cup muffin tin, frosting decorator, 6 frosting tip designs, 6 silicone cup liners, frosting spreader, stickers and more that quickly move a little chef straight to the business of cooking. With a shopping list included, young foodies can tailor their recipe choices to their own taste as they plan their cupcake menu. This set features real dishwasher-safe cooking implements that are made with kids' size and safety in mind. If your kid's mind is on food preparation, foster their culinary interest by giving them the tools to have a hand in the cooking as well!



Moose Toys Chocolate Bar Maker (Easy Chef)

Young confectioners get an easy introduction to candy-making with this Chocolate Bar Maker set that lets them re-make favorite chocolate flavors into their own signature taste combinations and styles. Using a microwave to melt their favorite chocolate, little hands can then squeeze the soft medium into the shapes of their choice. They also have the option of adding their own toppings, wrappings, stickers and more to give their own creative touches to the sweets they craft. Ideal for the budding chef with a sweet tooth, the Moose Toys Chocolate Bar Maker is a sweet start for little chocolate lovers with big ideas!



YayLabs Play and Freeze Ice Cream Ball (YayLabs)

There's nothing that tastes quite as authentic as homemade ice cream. For the younger set, waiting for the traditional ice cream churn is the real challenge. Enter YayLabs' Play and Freeze Ice Cream Ball that keeps kids engaged in the process from start to delicious finish. Just add the ice cream mix in one side, ice and salt in the other, lock it down and get the ball rolling. Kids passing, flipping, spinning and shaking the ball generates the movement needed to activate the icing process which takes about 15 – 20 minutes. Time flies (and ice cream freezes) while you're having fun! It needs no electricity so it's perfect for young chefs to take along to the beach, on camping trips, picnics and more! The best homemade ice cream is on a roll with the Play and Freeze Ice Cream Ball.



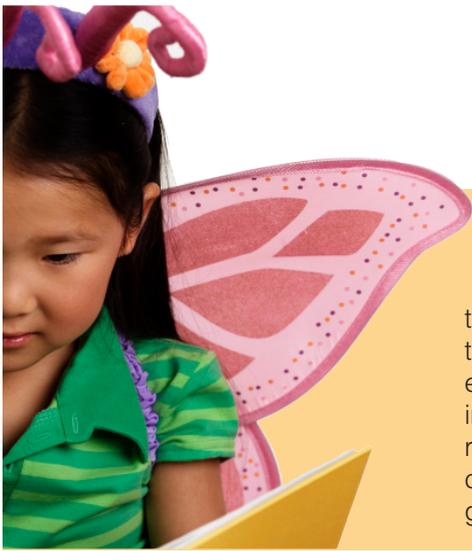
Easy-Bake Ultimate Oven (Hasbro)

The new Easy-Bake oven gets a big makeover with a sleek new design, more safety features and a cosmetic overhaul that makes it appealing to chefs of all ages. Simply whip up a batch of cookies with the included mix, then shape and set them on the small baking pan. Once the oven is preheated, just slide the pan into the slot on one side using the pan tool. When the cook time is complete and the cool down period finished, your pan of delicious cookies can be removed from the slot on the other side. Refill mixes and additional tools are available from Easy-Bake as well. Nostalgia for the heat lamp ancestor of this popular kids appliance is quickly replaced with fresh appreciation for this all new cooking tool that makes kids' baking easier than ever.



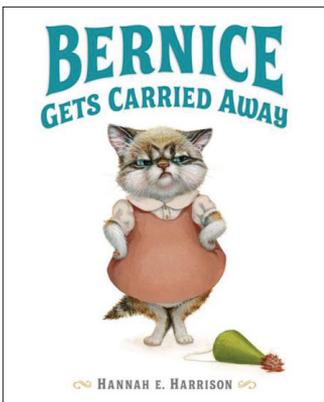
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A Page in a Book



Sharing the Joy of Generosity

A pacifier, a bottle, a favorite toy, a security blanket; these are some of the first things that a young child senses are uniquely their own. But as toddlers age into the years of interactive play with their peers, and their landscape of 'things' broadens, learning to share can be the difference between frustrated tears and peace in the realm. The following titles explore the natural feelings children experience regarding their possessions (or things they want to possess) and open up positive conversations about sharing. With a focus on the good feelings that sharing can generate, these books give a boost to the joy of generosity!



Bernice Gets Carried Away

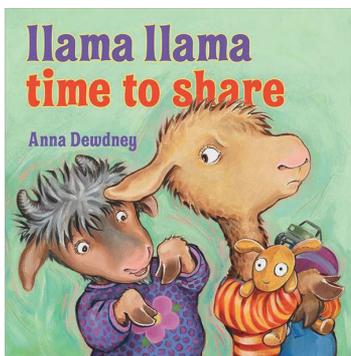
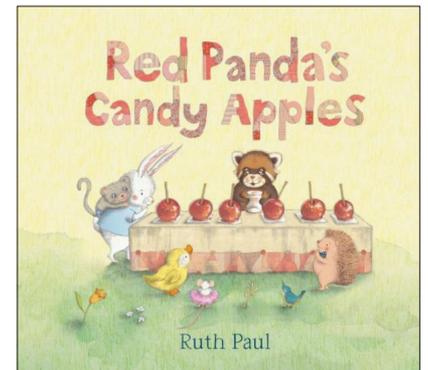
by Hannah E. Harrison (Dial / Penguin)

Bernice is having a lousy time at her friend's party. She receives the only piece of cake without a frosting rose. The pinata is opened before she even has a chance to take a swing at it (and the only candy she finds from it is one stepped-on gumdrop). But when the balloons arrive, Bernice isn't taking any chances. She grabs all the balloons – which quickly lift her up and away from the party! As Bernice floats away, she passes others who are having equally bad days. Sharing her bounty of balloons becomes the key to boosting the moods of others as well as getting Bernice back down to the party. Touching on the real feelings that can spark possessive reactions, Harrison's expressive illustrations relate the journey to generosity with warm humor that will delight both children and adult read-aloud partners.

Red Panda's Candy Apples

by Ruth Paul (Candlewick Press)

Red Panda makes the best sticky and sweet candy apples. So he decides to make some to sell, looking forward to the reward of coins in his jar. But he soon discovers that it's hard to let go of something that you'd like to keep (and eat) yourself. Red Panda's brisk business quickly leaves him with only one apple left, and his last two customers fighting over it. When the struggle over the last apple turns to tears, Red Panda remembers a secret solution that will let everyone enjoy a candy apple. Exploring the mixed feelings that we get when we share the things we love, the real joy of giving comes to the fore in this sweet title.



Llama Llama Time to Share

by Anna Dewdney (Viking / Penguin)

Children playing together for the first time can be a dance of mutual discovery as they feel out each others boundaries, seek out common interests, and learn what things are sometimes hard to share. When Llama Llama meets new neighbor Nelly Gnu for the first time, he's not sure what they will both enjoy playing together. After a cautious start, the two slowly discover a shared interest in building blocks and it looks like the play date is going to be successful. But when Nelly starts to play with Llama Llama's beloved Fuzzy Llama doll, all bets are off as tears (the wet kind) and tears (the ripping kind) erupt between the new playmates. With parents to help guide the way, Llama Llama and Nelly find a path toward sharing that mends the moment and paves the way toward smoother shared play in the future for these new friends.