

Family Bulletin

VOCABULARY:

gingerbread man

ran away

dressed

recipe

snack

chasing

sharing

yelling

catch

rolling

few

plenty

loud

quiet

thankful

oven

baking

rang

half

whole

Target
Letter and
Sound

D d

as in Dad, dog, or
day

The Gingerbread Man

The main book for this unit is *The Gingerbread Man* written by Jim Aylesworth and illustrated by Barbara McClintock. This story comes alive on the page with wonderful illustrations of the gingerbread man. This children’s classic was chosen because of the story’s repetitive and familiar text and because it lends itself to

dramatic play. The text also is adaptable to target verb tense (e.g., *run/ran*).

The related book for this unit is *The Doorbell Rang* written and illustrated by Pat Hutchins. In this story The Doorbell Rang, Mom makes cookies for a snack. Then, the doorbell begins to ring and continues to ring so often that the

children soon begin to wonder if there will be enough cookies for all the visitors. This story is about sharing and beginning math concepts. The story was chosen because it fit the criteria for being familiar and meaningful context for learning and because it contained predictable and repetitive text.

Bringing it Home—The Home and School Connection

Try these great ideas to bring the key concept of this unit, *Cookies and Smells*, into your home!

Make a batch of sugar cookies, allowing your child to help with the preparation of the recipe. Allow your child to see how the ingredient measurements are

made. Read each step of the recipe aloud. Roll out the dough, and ask your child to choose cookie cutters to cut out shapes. After baking the cookies, allow your child to ice and decorate them.

Go on a search for

spices and their smells. Choose some spices, and encourage your child to tell you about the smells. Arrange the spice bottles in order according to the smells your child likes least to best.

Rhyming Words:

Can—man
 Wife—knife
 Wink—think
 Cow—sow
 Back—snack
 Fan—man

Other Language Targets:

Prepositions: down, up, behind, in front

Language Forms: negative (can't, won't, no), contrasting verb tense (run/ran)

The Gingerbread Man

Run! Run!
 Fast as you can!
 You can't catch me!
 I'm the Gingerbread Man!
 I've run from a husband!
 I've run from a wife!
 I've run from a butcher
 With a carving knife!
 I've run from a cow,
 And a muddy old sow!
 And I'll run from you, too!
 I can! I can!

The Importance of Repeated Reading

What is one thing that many children who ready early and well have in common? They have heard books read aloud to them over and over again (Durkin, 1966). We believe that hearing the same books repeatedly allows children to internalize their

features, such as their rhyme and story structure. It also allows them to focus on things they wouldn't during a first reading, such as the print rather than just the pictures or the meaning of a particular word. Allow children to suggest favorite books they

want to hear again...and again...and again. Even if you feel you just can't read that book one more time, do, knowing that it is important for children's literacy development.

Taken from Literacy and the Youngest Learner by Bennett-Armistead, Duke, and Moses

Gingerbread Play Dough

Here's a fun recipe to follow to make your own play dough at home. Ask your child to help you measure and pour ingredients into the bowl, mix together then have fun!

Ingredients:

1 cup flour
 1/2 cup salt
 2 tsp. cream of tartar

Allspice and cinnamon
 (just enough to scent the dough)

Food coloring (equal parts red and green to make brown)

1 cup water

1 tsp. vegetable oil

Directions:

Mix flour, salt, and cream of tartar together in a bowl. Add allspice

and cinnamon. In another bowl, add food coloring to the water. Add the colored water and the oil to the dry ingredients, and combine well. In a pot, cook the mixture 2-3 minutes, stirring frequently. When firm, knead the dough until it becomes soft and smooth. Allow the dough to cool before using. (Dough can be stored in an airtight container.)