

All About Cuisine

Play-based learning is a developmentally appropriate best-practice for young children. Through **All About Cuisine**, students get to know themselves and others through learning about different cultures' cuisine. From family meals to celebrating food all over the world, this guide shows an array of ways for children to have fun learning about different types of cuisine while enhancing their literacy skills. Follow these suggestions to create cuisine-themed centers in your early childhood classroom.

RESTAURANT DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER

Dramatic play inspires imagination, develops speaking and listening skills, fosters social skills such as sharing and turn taking, and supports children to acquire new vocabulary. A dramatic play center should include a theme, props, and adult guidance to enhance language development. Also include environmental print such as signs, labels, and authentic writing opportunities.



SUGGESTED PROPS

- Play food
- Kitchen accessories
- Chef costume
- Cash register
- Diner set



RIF PRINTABLES

- RIF Diner sign
- Diner menu
- RIF Ethiopian Restaurant sign
- Ethiopian menu

Note for educators: Create a restaurant with an authentic cuisine that your students are familiar with, or an unfamiliar cuisine to extend their thinking.

ADULT GUIDANCE: Use these suggested leveled questions and narrations to support children's play.

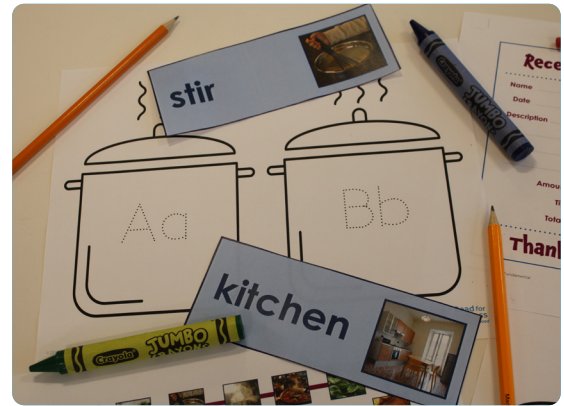
- **Level 1:** "Point to the menu."
- **Level 2:** "Is the restaurant open or closed?"
- **Level 3:** "Why are you at this restaurant today?"
- **Level 4:** "What might happen if the guests at the restaurant did not want to wait 20 minutes for their table?"
- "Our waiter is writing down the order carefully. That's how we make sure it's just right!"
- "That customer seems upset, and you are calming them down by offering them something else to eat."
- "I smell something delicious coming from the oven. Someone must be baking!"

WRITING CENTER

Young children benefit from exposure to different styles and purposes for writing. At your writing center include different types of paper and writing materials, a sound-spelling chart, and vocabulary cards. Help children see that writing has different purposes by providing examples of different types of writing such as friendly letters, storybooks, party invitations, and more.

RIF PRINTABLES

- Cuisine border sheet (with and without lines)
- Pots alphabet tracing
- Receipt paper



“Check please!” is a common phrase heard at restaurants. As a class, discuss what is included on a receipt at a restaurant. Have students practice writing their restaurant receipt using RIF’s Sound-Spelling Chart and Picture Vocabulary Cards.

NURSERY RHYME CENTER

Singing nursery rhymes help children develop phonological awareness which is important for developing phonics. Set up a center for children to sing their favorite nursery rhymes. Include the nursery rhyme, hand-made or printed displays, and puppets or props related to the nursery rhyme.

RIF PRINTABLES

- “On Top of Spaghetti” nursery rhyme
- “On Top of Spaghetti” puppets

