Greetings and happy June to you all!!! As unbelievable as it is, we are nearing the end of our school year. While it has been a challenging time for all, our hope is that it was also a time of family bonding. Children love nothing more than being with their families.

One area of learning that children don’t have to be taught is how to wonder and explore because they do it naturally. Science promotes reasoning and problem-solving skills. But it also develops math, literacy and motor skills. One easy way to promote science is right in your kitchen. Cooking is a great way for children to develop many skills necessary to the development of the whole child. Whether you are cooking a family meal or baking a special treat, invite your child to help. It may take a bit longer to complete but the end result will be worth it.

While we have created some delicious recipes to eat in the classroom this school year, one recipe that was repeated monthly was the play dough recipe. Below please find two recipes; the classic play dough recipe we use in the classroom and a recipe that they can eat when done.

**PLAY DOUGH**

2 CUPS OF FLOUR  
1/2 CUP OF SALT  
2 TABLESPOONS CREAM OF TARTAR  
2 TABLESPOONS COOKING OIL  
FOOD COLORING (OPTIONAL)  
1 CUP OF HOT WATER

Combine dry ingredients in a bowl (you can help your child measure the ingredients and they can dump the ingredients into the bowl). Make a well in the center and add oil and food coloring (if using) to the dry ingredients. Then add hot water (adult does this step) and stir. Remove from bowl and knead until play dough is cool enough for your child to touch.

Before making the play dough, write down the recipe on a piece of paper. First read the entire recipe to your child, touching each word as you say it. Then go back and read each ingredient before adding to the bowl. Again touch each word while reading. Talk with your child about measurement (large/small, cup, tablespoon), change in texture and how play dough feels when done. You can add different materials that you have at home for your child to create whatever they want. They can be very creative when left to use their imagination. (Math, literacy, small/large motor, creativity)

**ALPHABET/NUMBERS PRETZEL**

1 PACKET OF ACTIVE DRY YEAST  
4 CUPS OF FLOUR  
1 1/2 CUPS OF WARM WATER  
1 TEASPOON SALT  
MELTED BUTTER OR 1 EGG  
COARSE SALT OR SUGAR AND CINNAMON (OPTIONAL FOR SPRINKLING ON TOP)

Mix all the dry ingredients together in a bowl, except the coarse salt or sugar and cinnamon if using. Add the warm water to the bowl and mix together. It may be easier to mix with hands instead of spoon (fun!). Separate the dough into small balls (11-12). Give your child a ball and ask them to make a number or letter. You can write down the letter or number they choose for a visual. Help them, if needed, to roll the dough into a rope before shaping. When done you can brush melted butter or beaten egg on top and sprinkle with salt or sugar and cinnamon if you want. Bake at 350 degrees for about 12-15 minutes or until golden brown. Enjoy!

Again write recipe down and review with your child as suggested above. (Math, literacy, fine/large motor, creativity)

We hope you have a good week and enjoy the above recipes. Sending you all hugs!!

Ms. Ray and Ms. Anne