



What smells better than cookies baking, or makes you feel cozier than still-warm cookies dunked in milk? What's better than curling up with a plateful of cookies and a favorite book? Encourage your smart cookies to choose sweet reads with this delicious theme.

### **SETTING THE SCENE**

**Bakery Reading Corner.** Create a sweet-scented bakery reading corner. Use a small display case to feature plates of toy cookies (available in toy stores or through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) or make your own from clay, felt, or craft foam. Use a cookie-scented air freshener or candles to tantalize sniffers! (Just be sure to blow out any candles before children arrive.) Display cookie recipe books or other books with a cookie theme on top of the case. Behind the case, attach a striped awning to the wall that is made from heavy cardboard and painted or covered with paper or cloth. Add a wheeled kitchen cart with a toy mixer, bowl, and other baking utensils, and a couple

of beanbag chairs or round floor cushions. A "Smart Cookie" theme poster completes the effect.

**Bulletin Board.** Back a bulletin board in a bright color. Create a giant outline of a cookie jar on the board and gradually fill it with paper cookies. Use the "Smart Cookie" progress tracker pieces from Upstart or make your own. Cookies might show names of participating children (under the title "Smart Cookies!") or titles of books read or recommended by kids (under the title "Sweet Reads!"). Use the display to show progress toward a group reading goal, adding layers of cookies as the numbers roll in. Set out individual theme Reading Record forms on a table below the bulletin board.

**Book Display.** Arrange a rotating display of books about cookies around a plate of clay or craft foam cookies on a fabric cloth. You might feature nonfiction, picture book fiction, several versions of the Gingerbread Boy tale, chapter books, etc. (See resources list on page 6 for ideas.) Add a basket with small, individually wrapped packages of bite-size cookies as give-aways. Cloth with a pattern of Girl Scout Cookies is available at [www.fieldsfabricsonline.com/Girl-Scouts-Cotton-Fabric-Print--Aqua-Cookies\\_p\\_1055.html](http://www.fieldsfabricsonline.com/Girl-Scouts-Cotton-Fabric-Print--Aqua-Cookies_p_1055.html).

**Incentives.** Along with bookmarks from Upstart's "Be a Smart Cookie! READ" theme, collect a supply of small reading rewards

or program give-aways. Oriental Trading ([www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com)) has "Color-a-Cookie" sets with cookies and food coloring markers, cookie decorating award ribbons, small vinyl gingerbread people, and more. The *Sesame Street* online store, [http://store.sesamestreet.org/Dept.aspx?cp=21415\\_21457\\_21469&sort](http://store.sesamestreet.org/Dept.aspx?cp=21415_21457_21469&sort), has a variety of Cookie Monster novelty products. Check with local bakeries or grocery stores for donations of cookies or gift cards as prizes.

**Cookie Quips.** Post familiar sayings that mention cookies and invite kids to suggest others. Start with "That's the way the cookie crumbles," "Smart Cookie," "Tough Cookie," "Lose your cookies," "Go together like milk & cookies," or "Caught with your hand in the cookie jar."

### GAMES/CONTESTS

**Cookie Matching Game.** Checkout Oriental Trading Company's fifty-six piece "Cookie Matching Game" at [www.orientaltrading.com/pc-cookie-matching-game-a2-60\\_7039-12-1.fltr?Ntt=cookies](http://www.orientaltrading.com/pc-cookie-matching-game-a2-60_7039-12-1.fltr?Ntt=cookies).

**Sweet Read Cookie Tributes.** Invite kids to bring in their favorite books along with cookies decorated to

represent them in some way. For example, Harry Potter fans might bring in cookies shaped like a witch's hat or an owl. Create a display.

**Cookie Alphabet Game.** As part of a group program, challenge kids to think up kinds of cookies starting with as many letters of the alphabet as possible: "A is for applesauce cookies, B is for butter cookies, C is for chocolate chip..." See how creative the group can be.

**Rolling Pin Relay Races.** Gather children in teams at one end of an open space, inside or out. At the far end, place mixing bowls stocked with an equal number of plastic cookie cutters, one for each team. Give each team a rolling pin. At your signal, the first in each team will bend over and roll the pin along the floor or ground to his team's bowl, collect one cookie cutter, and roll back. The next team member will do the same, and so on. The team that returns all of its cookie cutters to the starting line first wins.

**Exotic Cookies Contest.** Challenge children to create original variations on basic cookie recipes. Hand out simple recipes for sugar, chocolate chip, and oatmeal cookies. They will experiment with additions and changes at home. On contest day, kids will bring in a dozen of their variations with written recipes. Gather judges (include a local baker, if possible) and taste away. Choose winners in several categories like "most original," "most colorful," etc. Post winning names and recipes on a bulletin board and award small prizes. To add a TV drama touch, plan contest day as "The Cookie Wars," in the style of *Cupcake Wars* on the Food Network, with an event theme and judges critiquing taste and presentation. If you dare, include a "most disgusting" category and invite recipes like Cricket Cookies, found at [www.mommiedaze.com/cookie-of-the-week-cricket-cookies](http://www.mommiedaze.com/cookie-of-the-week-cricket-cookies).

### ARTS/CRAFTS

**Crafting Cookies.** The possibilities for decorating cookies are endless! Invite kids to be creative as they make non-edible cookie crafts like bookmarks, magnets, jewelry, or key rings out of your choice of materials. You might shape and paint cookies made from craft clay, cut and decorate



shapes from craft foam, or sew or glue cookies from felt. Check out these websites for ideas and instructions:

- [www.mommyblessings.com/2009/01/valentine-clay-cookies-tutorial.html](http://www.mommyblessings.com/2009/01/valentine-clay-cookies-tutorial.html)
- [www.squidoo.com/cookie-crafts-for-kids#module107888341](http://www.squidoo.com/cookie-crafts-for-kids#module107888341)
- [www.makeandtakes.com/felt-sugar-cookies](http://www.makeandtakes.com/felt-sugar-cookies)
- [www.crayola.com/crafts/detail/catch-the-gingerbread-magnet!-craft](http://www.crayola.com/crafts/detail/catch-the-gingerbread-magnet!-craft)

**Gingerbread Puppets.** Make gingerbread people stick puppets out of card stock, felt, or even real gingerbread! Decorate them and use them as characters to tell favorite stories or scenes from stories, or have a puppet workshop (see Special Events on page 5) with kids and have them tell their favorite stories with puppet characters.

**Paper Fortune Cookies.** Here are two ideas for making paper fortune cookies to decorate your library or showcase fortunes written by library patrons. The first is simple and uses paper cupcake pan liners: <http://familyfun.go.com/crafts/paper-fortune-cookies-814378>. The video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=AF4AwwgHKKI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AF4AwwgHKKI) shows a more complicated process for origami fortune cookies (for older kids).

**Cookie Jars.** There are many ways to make decorative cookie jars for kids to take home, ranging from simple to elaborate. Have children bring in empty, clean coffee cans or plastic 8-quart Kool-aid canisters, with lids. You can also buy clear plastic jars with lids quite inexpensively at craft or discount stores. Choose your decorating method and materials. Depending on the appearance and material of your jars, you might use paint, markers, stickers or glitter; magazine cutouts or tissue paper and decoupage glue; self-adhesive craft foam shapes, etc. You might carry out the “Be a Smart Cookie! READ” theme by decorating with that logo, the progress tracker cookie cutouts, and slips of paper listing the names and authors of theme-related books. Let imagination rule!

**Custom Cookie Stencils.** Help children make their own stencils for use in decorating cookies. It’s easier for young children if the cookies are bigger and flat. Cut acetate sheets to fit the shapes and sizes of your cookies. Have kids draw designs on paper first. Keep them simple—an initial or geometric shape, perhaps, with plenty of space between the design and the edge of the shape. Transfer designs to the acetate using a fine-tipped marker. Carefully cut out the designs. Use them to decorate cookies with icing tubes, sprinkles, food color spray, or edible markers.

**Cookie Mix in a Jar.** Create these festive, layered gift favorites as a craft activity or make a few as nice prizes or thank-you gifts for staff. You’ll find recipes and tips at <http://allrecipes.com/Recipes/desserts/cookies/cookie-mix-in-a-jar/main.aspx>.

### WRITING PROJECTS

**Fortune Cookie Fortunes.** Read *Fortune Cookie Fortunes*. Share the history of fortune cookies from the end of the book. Have children write original fortunes or messages suitable for fortune cookies. This is harder than it sounds! Messages must convey a prediction, wish, or bit of advice in very few words, and be general enough to apply to different situations.



**Cookie Poems.** Read aloud several poems about cookies from your collection of poetry anthologies. Talk about different kinds of poems, like rhyming couplets, haiku, cinquain, free verse, etc. Have them write original cookie poems to illustrate and share aloud. Here are a few poems to get you started:

- “The Case of the Missing Cookies” by Arden Davidson, [www.angelfire.com/md/byme/pocket/casecookies.html](http://www.angelfire.com/md/byme/pocket/casecookies.html)



- “Baking Cookies” by Carrie Heyes, [http://forums.familyfriendpoems.com/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=16819](http://forums.familyfriendpoems.com/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=16819)
- “Grandma’s Cookies,” [www.nursery-rhymes-fun.com/kidspoems-grandmascookies.html](http://www.nursery-rhymes-fun.com/kidspoems-grandmascookies.html)

**Cookie Acrostic.** Set or hand out the Cookie Acrostic reproducible on page 7 and display the results.

**Cookie Character Stories.** Share a couple of stories that feature cookies as main characters, like *The Gingerbread Boy* or *The Gingerbread Girl*. Challenge kids to write their own short stories featuring cookie characters.

### FOODS/RECIPES

**Cookies, of Course!** Use the theme to introduce less common cookie varieties along with enjoying traditional favorites.

**Fortune Cookies.** Try this recipe for fortune cookies made from refrigerated pie crust dough: <http://familyfun.go.com/recipes/sweet-fortune-cookies-68723>. Use fortunes having to do with the library!



**Cookie Snack Mix.** Toss a variety of bite-sized cookies, available in grocery stores, with mini pretzel twists, nuts, raisins, etc. for a crunchy, tasty, sweet and salty crowd pleaser. Serve in cups or plastic sandwich bags to avoid spreading germs.

### SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

**Moon Phases.** Start by reading *The Moon Might Be Milk*. Talk about the phases of the moon, using prepared

sugar cookies in waxing crescent, first quarter, waxing gibbous, full, waning gibbous, third quarter, and waning crescent shapes to illustrate; no cookie for the invisible new moon! Explain why the moon appears to change shape. Pass out moon phase cookies to munch while you read the poem excerpt from “What the Little Girl Said” by Vachel (Nicholas) Lindsay at [www.spod.gsfc.nasa.gov/stargaze/Smooon.htm](http://www.spod.gsfc.nasa.gov/stargaze/Smooon.htm).



**Sweet Scents.** Gather samples of cookies with distinctive smells, like chocolate chip, peanut butter, lemon, or molasses spice. Put each in its own small paper bag, hidden from sight. Have children close their eyes, plug their noses, and taste. How many can they identify? Have them try again with noses unplugged. Use the opportunity to talk about how our sense of smell works, using resources from your collection.

**Taste Experiment.** Purchase three to five different kinds of packaged refrigerator cookie dough. Bake them into bite-sized cookies and have volunteers bake batches of the same kinds, also bite-sized, from scratch. Let kids sample both and choose a favorite. Record votes and graph results at the end. What did you learn? Are made-from-scratch better, overall, than store-bought dough? Better for some kinds of cookies but not others? This activity has math applications too, as you keep statistics and show them on a graph or chart.

### MATH ACTIVITIES

**Favorite Cookie Data.** Ask young patrons to vote for their favorite kind of cookie. Provide ballots with spaces to write their name and their cookie choice, and a cookie jar to collect them in. Count ballots and post the results. Show the top five in bar graph form and add math value by also posting the total, mean, median, range, and mode numbers of the data set.



**The Doorbell Rang.** Read Pat Hutchins’ book by that name. Go through the book again, working with children to figure out, with each ring of the doorbell, how many cookies would be each child’s share. Try to count the cookies on the tray Grandma brings, and figure out

each person's share, including the grownups. Talk about the kids' favorite treats, and how it feels to have to share them. Finally, share some cookies—evenly!

**Cookie Recipe Math.** Take advantage of baking activities to reinforce related math concepts. Discuss and demonstrate accurate measuring of ingredients, pointing out units of measure for volume and weight and converting them to metric units. Challenge kids to convert standard recipes to make multiple batches or fractions of a batch. Award smart cookies who come up with the right answers an extra cookie when the baking's done!

**Toy Cookie Manipulatives.** Learning Resources makes a set of "Smart Snacks Counting Cookies," ten plastic cookies with numbers 1–10 on the bottom and a corresponding number of candy decorations on top. Set these or other toy cookies out for young children to handle. Add simple math problem prompts, like a sheet with numbered circles for children to place the matching cookies on or simple addition and subtraction problems in words or numbers on index cards, for them to work out using the cookies as manipulatives.

### INTERNET ACTIVITIES

**Cookie Monster!** Bookmark the *Sesame Street* website and let kids browse the loveable monster's songs and scenes about...you know what! [www.sesamestreet.org/muppet/journal\\_content/56\\_INSTANCE\\_MUPP/10171/Cookie%20Monster](http://www.sesamestreet.org/muppet/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_MUPP/10171/Cookie%20Monster)

**Bakery Video Tour.** Invite kids to watch an interesting video about how Girl Scout Cookies are made: [www.abcsmartcookies.com/aboutBakeryTourVideo.asp](http://www.abcsmartcookies.com/aboutBakeryTourVideo.asp).

**Virtual Cookies.** Have kids practice following directions and mouse skills by preparing dough and baking chocolate chip cookies online at [www.dressupgirl.net/dressup/783/Chocolate-Chip-Cookies.html](http://www.dressupgirl.net/dressup/783/Chocolate-Chip-Cookies.html). All that's missing is the taste!

**Online Jigsaw Puzzles.** Bookmark an online cookie jigsaw puzzle each day. Here are some to start with:

- [www.jigzone.com/puzzles/F7055D4FFFDE](http://www.jigzone.com/puzzles/F7055D4FFFDE),
- [www.crazy4jigsaws.com/jigsaw/1761/](http://www.crazy4jigsaws.com/jigsaw/1761/),

- [www.epuzzle.info/puzzlegraj.php?obrazek=729&szer=945&wys=630&rozam=0](http://www.epuzzle.info/puzzlegraj.php?obrazek=729&szer=945&wys=630&rozam=0).

**A Cookie for Every Country.** Check out this fascinating site that offers a cookie tour of the world, country by country, with background information, national flag, and photos: <http://globalcookies.blogspot.com>.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Cookie Swap.** This is a favorite family activity. Set a date and spread the word! Families bring an assigned number of favorite homemade cookies (enough for the number of families you expect to participate) with a recipe card to display next to them. Provide paper plates and zip-seal plastic bags and invite families to fill their plates with one of several different kinds of cookies, not to exceed the number they brought. They may copy recipes and take home the tasty treats.

**Visit to Bakery.** Bakery tours are interesting to kids and often offer the sweet bonus of free samples. Small local bakeries like the free publicity. Everybody wins!

**Animal Cookie Safari.** Start with a quantity of animal cracker cookies. Work with kids to sort them into species that share similar habitats—jungle animals, desert animals, even barnyard animals. Provide paper, crayons, markers, etc., and have kids create pictures of these habitats. Glue the appropriate animals onto the scenes. Next, identify with children a country where each habitat might be found. Find that country on a map or globe. Then find a computer and look up each country on the *Cookie for Every Country* website, <http://globalcookies.blogspot.com>. There you'll not only learn about the country, but also a cookie enjoyed there. With more effort and planning, you could choose countries in advance and bake the appropriate cookies to sample.

**Cookie Story Time.** Combine stories from the list below with appropriate crafts, games, and other features for a sweet delight of a story time. Include the song/game described in *Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?* by



Bonnie Lass and Philemon Sturges. Feature a video clip or song by Cookie Monster from the *Sesame Street* website listed above. You might bake cookie versions of characters to help tell a story, as Jenny does in *Dear Whiskers*. The Cookie Alphabet Game or Rolling Pin Relay Races and a simple version of Crafting Cookies are good additions. Don't forget the cookies and milk!

**Cookie Decorating Party.** Recruit an expert from a local bakery to give kids inspiration and tips for creating delightful, delicious cookie art.

**Fortune Cookies Book Discussion and Craft.** Invite upper elementary girls to read *Sweet Treats, Secret Crushes*. Bring them together to discuss the book, write fortune cookie fortunes, make origami fortune cookies, and nibble on the real thing.

**Cookie Puppet Book Reports.** Bake, in advance, gingerbread or round sugar cookies with craft sticks inserted to make puppet “blanks.” Children will decorate cookies with icing, candy bits, etc. to look like a main character in a book they've read and let their puppet become the voice of the character to tell the group about the story.

## “SMART COOKIE” RESOURCES

- *Air Mail Music: Brazil Capoeira* by Various Artists. Playasound, 2004. ASIN B0001Z536K. All ages.
- *All in Just One Cookie* by Susan E. Goodman. HarperCollins, 2006. ISBN 0060090928. 2–4.
- *Apple Pie Calzones and Other Cookie Recipes* by Brekka Hervey Larew. Snap Books, 2008. ISBN 142961336X. K–6.
- *Bulldog's Big Day* by Kate McMullan. Orchard Books, 2011. ISBN 0545171555. P–1.
- *The Cookie Company* by Ross Venokur. Yearling, 2001. ISBN 0440415977. 3–6.
- *Cookiebot: A Harry and Horsie Adventure* by Katie Van Camp. Balzer & Bray, 2011. ISBN 0061974455. K–3.
- *The Cow Loves Cookies* by Karma Wilson. Margaret K. McElderry, 2010. K–3.
- *Dear Whiskers* by Ann Whitehead Nagda. Holiday House, 2000. ISBN 0823414957. 3–5.
- *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins. Greenwillow Books, 1994. ISBN 0688131018. P–2.
- *Fleabiscuit Sings* by Marlene Fanta Shyer. Marshall Cavendish Children's Books, 2005. 3–6.
- *Fortune Cookie Fortunes* by Grace Lin. Random House Children's Books, 2006. ISBN 0440421926. K–3.
- *Fortune Cookies of Weevil* (Tiger Moth series) by Aaron Reynolds. Stone Arch Books, 2007. ISBN 1598894137. 2–5.
- *The Gingerbread Boy* by Richard Egielski. HarperCollins, 2000. ISBN 0064437086. P–3.
- *The Gingerbread Girl* by Lisa Campbell Ernst. Dutton Juvenile, 2011. ISBN 0525422595. K–3.
- *The Greatest Cookies Ever: Dozens of Delicious, Chewy, Chunky, Fun & Foolproof Recipes* by Rose Dunnington. Lark Books, 2005. ISBN 1579906273. 4–6.
- *How to Save Your Tail\*: \*If You Are a Rat Nabbed by Cats Who Really Like Stories about Magic Spoons, Wolves with Snout-warts, Big, Hairy Chimney Trolls... and Cookies Too* by Mary Hanson. Yearling, 2008. 2–5.
- *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff. HarperCollins, 1985. ISBN 0060245867. K–3.
- *May I Please Have a Cookie?* by Jennifer E. Morris. Cartwheel Books, 2005. ISBN 0439738199. K–2.
- *The Moon Might Be Milk* by Lisa Shulman. Dutton Juvenile, 2007. ISBN 0525476474. K–3.
- *Mr. Cookie Baker* by Monica Wellington. Dutton Juvenile, 2006. ISBN 0525477632. P–1.
- *Red Riding Hood's Math Adventure* by Lalie Harcourt and Ricki Wortzman. Charlesbridge Publishing, 2001. ISBN 157091477X. K–3.
- *Sesame Street: Cookie Monster's Best Bites* directed by Jim Henson et al. Sesame Street, 2004 (DVD video). ASIN B0000TGAGO. P–2.
- *Sweet Treats, Secret Crushes* by Lisa Greenwald. Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2010. ISBN 0810989905. 5+.
- *Tough Cookie* by David Wisniewski. HarperCollins, 1999. ISBN 0688153372. 2–5.
- *Who Ate All the Cookie Dough?* by Beaumont. Henry Holt and Co., 2008. ISBN 0805082670. P–2.
- *Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?* by Bonnie Lass and Philemon Sturges. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2000. ISBN 0316820164. P–2.

# Cookie Acrostic

An acrostic poem can be read in different ways. The letters of a word, written vertically, are used in other words or phrases written horizontally, to make a meaningful composition.

Here's an example:

**C**ookies,  
**R**ight from the oven! How can I wait  
**U**ntil the timer rings?  
**M**y mouth waters at the thought of their  
**B**uttery, crumbly  
**S**weetness. At last! Nothing left but crumbs.

Now create your own acrostic poem about cookies.

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