

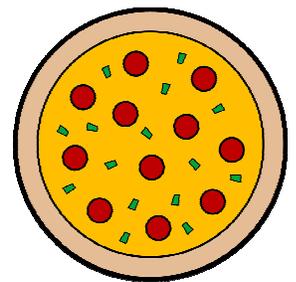


# Purposeful Ongoing Play

## Enhancing Language Skills Through Play

### Parent Tip Sheet (P.O.P. Sheet) on... Playing Kitchen

- \* Below are some ideas that may be used, but don't feel you have to use them all every time you play kitchen. Just pick 2 or 3 that you feel comfortable with and can easily do.
- \* The skill of pretending is very important when playing kitchen because your child will be mimicking the things you do in the kitchen such as cooking, doing dishes, serving dinner, and so on.
- \* As you play with the food, the dishes, the cutlery, etc., model the things you normally do in the kitchen and talk about them as you do them, showing your child how to pretend to do those things.
- \* When pretending to prepare, cook, serve, and/or eat the food, talk about the process, the tools needed (knife, cutting board, mixing spoon, pan, etc.), the food group (meat, vegetable, fruit, etc.), the food characteristics (color, size, shape, taste, etc.), and so on. Be as specific as you can be in order to teach new vocabulary words and reinforce old vocabulary.
- \* Introduce lots of related action words as you play such as cut, cook, bake, mix, stir, shake, pour, wash, rinse, dry, clean, sweep, serve, eat, drink.
- \* Introduce lots of related words such as stove, oven, sink, faucet, table, cutting board, pan, lid, spoon, fork, knife, plate, cup, bowl, hot pad, apron.
- \* Play a sorting game with the various foods you have, sorting them by color, size, shape, food group, and taste (sweet, sour, salty).
- \* Pretend to bake a cake, make a casserole or a pizza and go through the motions of finding the play ingredients. Then talk through the process of what happens first, next, and last as you complete each step. Bon appetit!



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