**Read**

Read the books in this kit with your child. Take time to look at and talk about the pictures. Make the story come alive! Don’t be afraid to use voices and have fun with reading.

Ask your child questions about what is happening in the story and what they think may happen next.

Talk about the story. Help your child relate it to their own experiences.

After reading the books in this kit, retell the stories using the kitchen utensils and foods as props.

*The Little Ren Hen* integrates pictures into sentences. Try labeling objects your child doesn’t know yet to help them learn to spell.

**Sing**

Listen to Laurie Berkner’s album, *Laurie Berkner’s Food Songs*, available for free from DTDL’s Hoopla collection at hoopladigital.com.

**Bananas Unite**

We pick bananas, pick pick bananas (*pick bananas in the air from a pretend tree*).

And peel bananas, peel peel bananas (*hands spread to side - right and left alternating*)

And chop bananas, chop chop chop bananas (*karate chop in front of body*)

And mash bananas, mash mash mash bananas (*clapping hands on top of one another*)

And eat bananas, eat eat bananas (*“scoop” bananas into your mouth*)

Then go bananas! (*jump around wildly*)

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**I Am Hungry** (call and response song)

*Tune: Frere Jacques*

I am hungry! (I am hungry)
What should I eat? (What should I eat?)
Think I’ll have a sandwich (Think I’ll have a sandwich)
Without any meat! (Without any meat).

I am hungry! (I am hungry)
What should I eat? (What should I eat?)
Think I’ll have a carrot (Think I’ll have carrot)
Not a beet (Not a beet).

I am hungry! (I am hungry)
What should I eat? (What should I eat?)
Think I’ll have an apple (Think I’ll have an apple)
Crisp and sweet (Crisp and sweet).

**P-I-Z-Z-A**

*Tune: B-I-N-G-O*

I had a pizza big and round
And all of it was mine-o
And all of it was mine-o

Additional verses are sung by omitting the first letter sung in the previous verse and clapping instead of saying the word.

I had a pizza big and round
And all of it was mine-o
And all of it was mine-o
Talk
Talk about the different dinosaurs in *How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food.* Practice saying their scientific names, ask your child how they are similar and different, ask which one is their favorite and why.

In *The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza,* what other recipes could Little Red Hen make with the ingredients she bought?

Talk with your child about some of your family’s favorite foods and recipes.

Write
Have your child make a shopping list of their favorite foods. Scribble, draw pictures, practice letters – it all counts!

Write a note or draw a picture to leave in the lunch box for the next person to find.

Make and decorate your own lunch box or bag.

Play
Use the book *Pancakes* as your recipe book to make real pancakes.

Play restaurant. Come up with a name, menu, and pretend to make food! Talk about who works in a restaurant and different types of food services. Request special foods for your child to make. Ask them what ingredients might go in that recipe.

Homemade Playdough
Makes: 1 ball
Ingredients: ½ cup plain flour, 2 TBSP table salt, 4 TBSP warm water, food coloring, 1 TBSP vegetable oil
Instructions: Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. In a separate bowl mix together the water, a few drops of food coloring and the oil. Pour the liquid mix into the flour mix and stir. Dust a work surface with a little flour and turn out the dough. Knead together for a few minutes to form a smooth, pliable dough. Store in a plastic sandwich bag (squeeze out the air) in the fridge to keep it fresh.

Homemade Playdough helps build fine motor skills for writing. Follow this recipe for homemade playdough and use it to practice making shapes, letters, and sculptures!

This tip sheet stays with the kit. For a copy of your own, visit dtdl.org/littlethings. For more books, songs, rhymes, and activity ideas to share with your child, visit dtdl.org/storytimes.