

Themes

Hats Galore


Dramatic play is the focus of this theme. The children will explore all types of hats and learn about the people who wear them. Winter headwear and other seasonal attire will also be covered.

Tasty Traditions

December is full of festive fun, and baking plays a special role. Invite children to use their senses as you bake, make, and play together. Explore old traditions and create new ones. This theme will warm your bellies and your hearts!

Alphabet Words

jellyfish, juggle, juice, jungle, kangaroo, ketchup, keys, koi, lake, leopard, lightning, log

Color/Shape	Letters/Numbers
	Jj, Kk, Ll 9, 10

Sign Language



Learn with Me!

- Decorated Hat**

Hunt around the house for recyclable materials. Help your child notice which materials can and cannot be recycled. Find an old hat. Work together on redecorating the hat with the recyclable materials. Invite your child to wear the hat proudly around the house and the neighborhood.

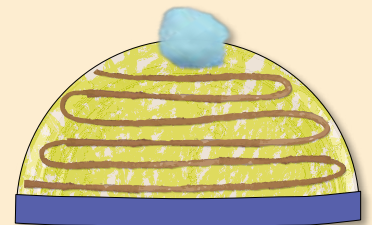
- Tasty Recipe**

Ask your child to name three favorite foods and write them down. Now, work with your child on inventing, naming, and creating a recipe with those ingredients. Gather the ingredients and test the recipe! Invite your child to be part of the cooking process by measuring, mixing, and stirring. Enjoy taste testing this creative invention. It is always a fun time in the kitchen!

- My Project: Cold Weather Hat**

When I bring this project home, we can:

- Feel the different textures on the project.
- Compare the hat project with real hats.



- My Project: Tray of Cookies**

When I bring this project home, we can:

- Have a pretend bake sale.
- Make similar cookie shapes with playdough.
- Talk about cookie flavors, shapes, and colors.



FAMILY CONNECTION

Book List

Courage Hats
by Kate Hoefler

We Found a Hat
by Jon Klassen

Career Day
by Anne Rockwell

Tiara's Hat Parade
by Kelly Starling Lyons

Ten Ways to Hear Snow
by Cathy Camper

Wintercake
by Lynne Rae Perkins

Mr. Cookie Baker
by Monica Wellington

Snow Angel, Sand Angel
by Lois-Ann Yamanaka

Songs

Too Many Hats

Sung to "Did You Ever See a Lassie?"

Cowboy hats and baseball caps,
Helmets and bonnets,
A beret and a sombrero,
And one birthday hat!

Wear this hat or that hat.
Wear big hats or flat hats.
Too many hats to choose from!
Which hat should I wear?

Repeat.



Recipe

Grandma Anna's Gingerbread Cookies

- 1 cup molasses
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/3 cups sugar
- 1/2 T. baking soda
- 4 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. ginger
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ground cloves
- 1 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1 1/4 cup heavy cream



Mix molasses, sugar, spices, and butter to a smooth dough. Stir in the cream and eggs. Mix the baking soda with the flour. Gradually add the flour mix to the wet mix. Add extra flour, if needed, to make a soft dough. Refrigerate overnight. Roll out the dough and cut it into gingerbread shapes. Roll thick for soft cookies and thinner for crisp cookies. Bake at 350°F for 10 minutes or until very lightly browned. Cool slightly before removing from the cookie sheet. Decorate with icing and candies as desired.

Gingerbread

Sung to "Down by the Station"

Stir a bowl of gingerbread, (*Pretend to stir.*)

Smooth and spicy brown.
Roll it with a rolling pin, (*Pretend to roll.*)
Up and down.

With a cookie cutter,
Make (some little men). (*Place hands on hips.*)

Then put them in the oven,
'Til half past (ten)! (*Point to wristwatch.*)

Repeat with:

little me and you...two
a little more...four



Reminders
