

The  
Early Years Count  
**Literacy**  
Connection



**Baking day  
at Grandma's**

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Illustrated by Christopher  
Denise

*Infant/Toddler edition*  
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**Overview of Book**

Pass out Aprons! Stir the batter! Three little bears tromp through the snow for a special baking day at Grandma's. In a rhyming text that begs to be sung, the bears and their grandma create the perfect wintry treat. Though the biggest treat of all may be the time they spend together.

Genre: Fiction

**Vocabulary**

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Baking day at Grandma's* to introduce in your classroom:

Drift  
Cottage  
Cozy

Each time you read the book, highlight 2 or 3 words.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or refer to the illustrations to help children understand each word's meaning.

Use the new words throughout the day, reminding children, "That's a word from our story!"

**Connecting with  
HighScope  
Curriculum**

**COR Advantage 1.5**

Physical development  
Item J  
(Fine motor skills)

Language Literacy and  
Communication  
Item N  
(Phonological awareness)

Mathematics  
Item U  
(Measurement)

Creative Arts  
Item AA  
(Pretend play)

**Reading Tips**

Before reading this story, gather various baking utensils (such as cook books, measuring cups and spoons, bowls, whisks, sheet pan, cup cake pan, cake pan). Introduce the items to the children and let them each hold one as you read the story.

Read the story in a singsong voice, the rhyming words will come out as a song! Pretend to knock on Grandma's door.

Each time you come to the "It's baking day" refrain have the children wave their baking materials in the air.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story.

### **Throughout the Routine**

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

During **Large Group Time**, give the children various baking items, put on the “Baking Day” song (<http://www.littlehands.com/2014/10/14/baking-day/>), and invite the children to “play” their baking tools and dance to the music.

Another day, teach the children movements to go with the “Baking Day” song (<https://www.anikadenise.com/wpcontent/uploads/2014/10/Baking-Day-Song-Dance-Moves.pdf>).

### **Around the Room**

Highlight the book’s content and build on the children’s excitement in a variety of locations.

In the **House Area**, add baking pans, spoons, rolling pins, whisks, bowls, and sifters. Empty baking containers (i.e., baking soda, spices) and cookbooks will also be fun for the children to use as they “bake.” For dress up, add aprons, hats, mittens, and scarves so the children can “bundle up.”

Add measuring spoons and cups, bowls, and sifters to the **Sand Area**.

Make sure there are plenty of rolling pins to use with playdough!

### **Open-ended Questions**

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These “wondering aloud” questions support children’s developing focus and attention as they encourage young children’s capacity to make connections and see possibilities.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Baking Day at Grandma’s*:

- Have you ever baked anything before?
- What do you like to do when you go to visit your grandma or another family member?
- What do you think “bundle up” means?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

website—  
[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

Facebook—  
@famconnsjc

phone—  
574-237-9740

### **@ Home**

Since many children in our county will have this book at home, use it to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Baking Day at Grandma’s* with their children. Here’s a sample message to send:

*Baking Day at Grandma’s* has us doing all kinds of pretend play in our classroom. After reading this story at home, choose a simple recipe and do some real baking with your child. Or pick up some pre-made cookie dough and have your child help arrange pieces on a baking tray. For endless hours of pretend baking, make some homemade play dough: In large saucepan, combine 1 c. flour, ½ c. salt, and 2 t. cream of tartar. Gradually stir in 1 c. water mixed with 2 T. oil and 1 t. food coloring. Cook over medium to high heat, stirring constantly until a ball forms. Remove from heat, cool, and knead on waxed paper until smooth.