

preschool PROMISE

The Gingerbread Man!

This month's box is all about movement! In the story *The Gingerbread Man*, the cookie runs away from all sorts of creatures. In this box, you have received some materials to make your own gingerbread people with a rolling pin, cookie cutters, Smarties and string to decorate. These materials help your child build up the muscles in their hands used for drawing and writing!

As your child moves around your house, remind them to make safe choices! Challenge your child to bring in some dramatic play by using blankets, pillows and toys to act out parts of the story or make an obstacle course. This pretend play can help your child use their imagination, and meet their need to move around when it gets too cold to play outdoors!

What's in the box?



cookie cutter



cookie placemat/baking sheet



rolling pin



Smarties



string



1 sleeve of Playdough

Make your own Gingerbread People!

Grab your rolling pin, cookie cutter, string and Smarties to make your own gingerbread person! What does your person need? Eyes? A mouth? Through play, you can practice math, language and motor skills!

Remember to try out the three activities on the back of this sheet to practice some more Kindergarten Readiness skills!



**Play Plan: Do these three activities this month to help your child learn and grow!
When you've completed the activities decorate the gingerbread people below!**



Count your Smarties!

- Using your Smarties candy pieces, count how many you have!
- Talk about what patterns you can make and get creative!
- Ask your child: what colors do you see? How many of each color is there!



Measure up!

- See which member of your household is the tallest! Use your string to measure the members of your household by having them stand on the string, and stretch it to the top of their head!
- Ask your child: what other things can we measure? Toys? Pets?



Run as fast as you can!

- Be like the gingerbread man, and run as fast *and* as safely as you can!
- Make an obstacle course in your home – find pillows to climb over, use your string to make lines to walk on and blankets can be rivers to cross!
- Ask your child: how else can you move your body? Jump, skip, or run backwards!



Kindergarten Readiness skills: This month highlights three new readiness skills for Kindergarten. You can use the questions listed for each activity to connect and extend the skills listed below.

Math skills:

find a variety of ways to make a pattern – ABAB (pink, green, pink, green for example) or ABBA (pink, green, green, pink)

Language skills:

make comparisons and describe relationships between objects like big/little, under/over and first/last

Gross motor skills:

Demonstrate locomotor movement skills with control, coordination and balance during active play (e.g., running, hopping, skipping)