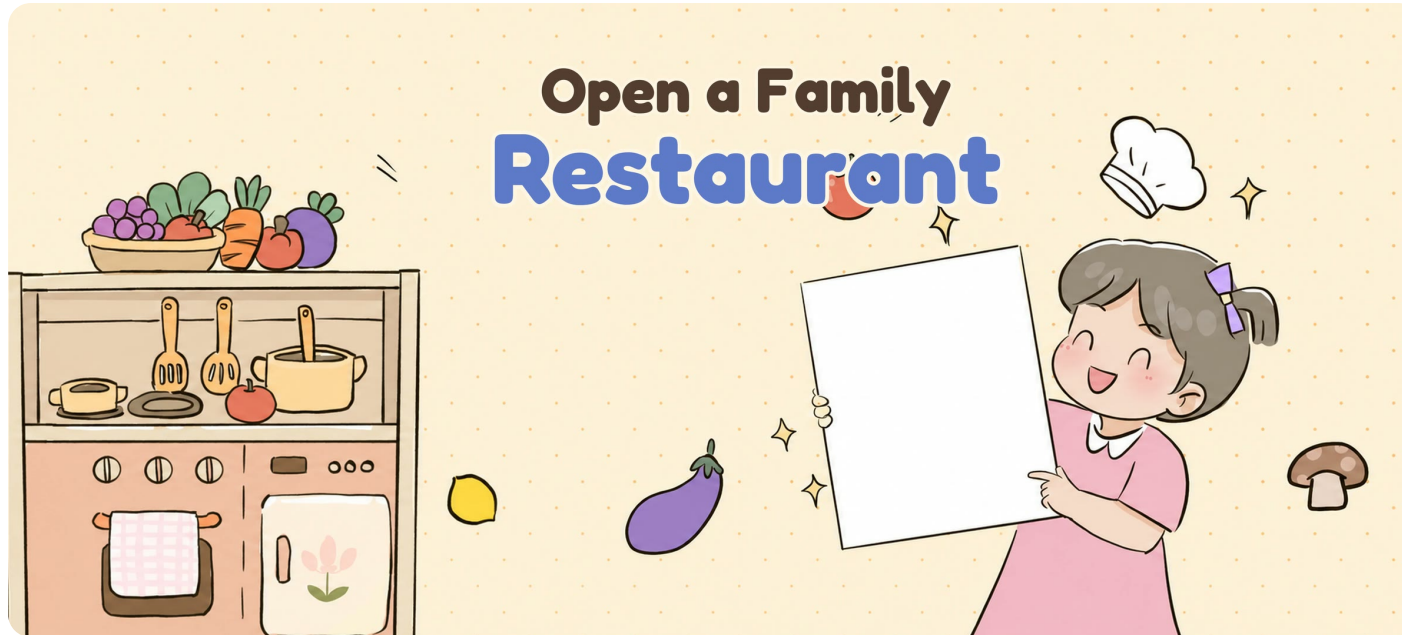




Open a Family Restaurant

The little restaurant is open! Make a menu, record each order with pictures or symbols, and help the chef deliver every dish to the right customer.

Helps Your Child Grow



Writing

Marking who ordered each dish gives your child a meaningful reason to record information with drawings, letters, names, or invented symbols and builds interest in writing.

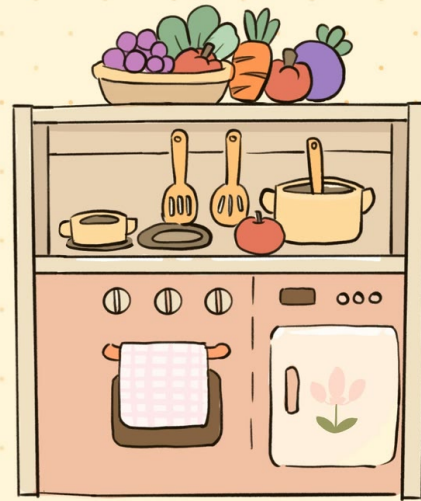


Creativity

Making a menu and adding details to the restaurant encourages your child to develop an imagined setting and sustain a role-play story.



What You'll Need



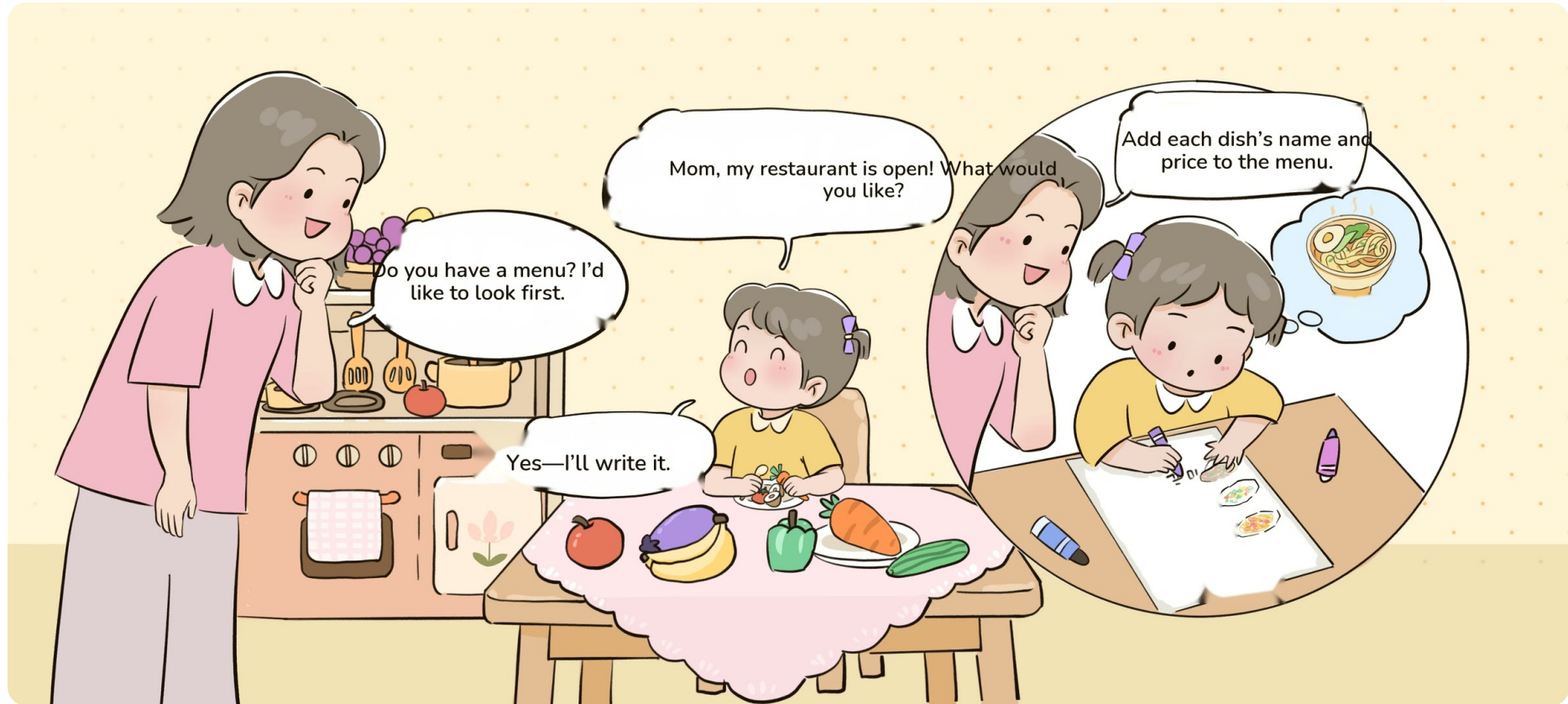
Play Kitchen



Paper and Pencil

What You'll Need

1. Pretend kitchen toys, paper, and a pencil



Open the Restaurant

When your child opens a pretend restaurant and invites you to order, become a curious customer. Ask, “What are you serving today? Do you have a menu?” Realizing that customers need a menu gives your child a reason to make one.

Observations

- Arranges pretend food and invites family members to order
- Begins making a menu after you ask, “Do you have a menu?”

Tips

- Follow the story your child is creating and introduce a reason to write when it helps solve a real problem in the game.



Mark Mom's Order

Once the menu is ready, place an order. If your child cannot remember every dish, first let them think of a solution. If they need an idea, suggest making a small mark beside each dish or adding the customer's name. Then see whether the record helps them deliver the order correctly.

Observations

- Uses drawings, marks, or words to record what a customer ordered
- Hands a writing task to a parent and asks for help

Tips

- If your child wants to write a name but does not know how, write it once and let them trace over it.
- Tracing the letters you write gives your child practice coordinating wrist and finger movements for later independent writing.



Record More Orders

As more customers arrive, writing every name may feel slow. Suggest a recognizable picture, a letter or initial, or an invented symbol. Let your child choose how to record each person, then use the marks to serve the dishes.

Observations

- Invents spellings or other marks beside dishes on the menu
- Uses the recorded marks to serve each customer's order

Tips

- When your child follows a mark to serve the food, play along: "Grandma - oh! So this mark means me!"
- Do not decide the symbol for your child. Ask, "What mark would help you recognize Dad right away?"
- The mark does not need to make sense to you. If your child can explain whom it represents and use it to deliver the right dish, it works as a record.