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## I'm a Hungry Dinosaur

By Janeen Brian, illustrated by Ann James

Many of these activities are for children in a preschool setting with learning centers, but they can easily be used at home as well. The activities are designed to develop pre-reading and pre-writing skills.

### Before Reading

Ask the children to describe the cover of the book. Then turn the book over and ask them what they see on the back cover. What do they think will happen in the story?

### Read the Book

As you read, ask the children what they think each illustration shows.

### Read It Again!

- Point out the bird and ask the children what it might be thinking.
- Encourage the children to talk about a time when they were hungry. How did it feel? What did they do?
- Discuss cake! What do they like? When do they have it?
- While reading, tap out the beat on your lap with one hand, or have another adult in the room do so. Then read the book again, asking the children to clap with the rhythm.
- Use the story to explore feelings by asking the children how they think the dinosaur feels at each stage: being hungry, making the cake, waiting for the cake to bake, smelling the cake, eating it, deciding to make another.

### Words and Rhyme

- The hungry dinosaur has a hungry *tum*. What does *tum* mean? What rhymes with *tum*?
- Discuss meanings and rhymes for other words in the story:
  - slide
  - smell
  - slip
  - chomp
  - chew
  - slice
  - mix

### Have a Parade!

Give each child a rhythm instrument – tambourine, maracas, triangle, wood blocks, rhythm sticks, bells, drum – and have them march around the room while reciting, *SHAKE, SHAKE, STIR, STIR*. As the parade ends, have them hold up their instrument in the air while shaking it, and say, *MAKE A CAKE THAT'S YUM!*

### Play Dough Cake

Make your own play dough for the children to use to make “pretend” cakes.

Play dough recipe:

1 c. flour, ½ c. salt, 2 t. cream of tartar, 2 T. vegetable oil, 1 c. water, food coloring

1. Combine flour, salt and cream of tartar and mix well.



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2. Add food coloring to the water and oil, and combine with dry ingredients.
  3. Stir over medium heat several minutes until the dough forms a ball.
  4. Let cool in a bowl.
  5. Knead until smooth.
  6. Store in an airtight container. (It should keep for several weeks.)

### **Exploring math and science with the senses**

Put dry cake mix and/or cocoa in a container for the children to play with. Ask them to describe how what it looks like, how it feels and smells. Provide measuring cups and spoons for comparing measurements.

### **Decorate!**

Find a recipe for a no-bake cake or dessert and prepare it with the children. Bring in sprinkles and let them decorate it before eating.

### **Who Likes Sprinkles?**

Make a chart with 3 columns labeled

- A lot of sprinkles
- A few sprinkles
- No sprinkles

Write each child's name in one of the columns as they tell you what they like on their cake. Count the number of names in each column, then compare using math vocabulary: *more than, less than, the same as, most, least*

### **Let's Pretend!**

Set up a bakery area with props – toy stove, pretend baked goods, order forms, pencils, store signs, price sheets, menus, cash register, play money, plates, napkins – where the children can take on different roles: baker, order-taker, server, cashier, customer, family members at home enjoying their baked goods.