

# The New York Public Library

# At Home Activities for Families

## Family Recipe-Writing

### Overview

You will work with your child to write a recipe. You can choose a simple recipe you create together or a family recipe that has been passed down for generations.

### Ages

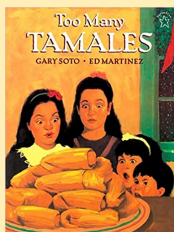
Appropriate for children ages 5-9

### Materials Needed for One Child

- Pencil
- Blank white paper or Recipe Writing Template (pg. 5-6; printable; optional)
- Colored pencils / crayons / markers
- Ingredients & materials for the recipe you will make together

### Paired Books for Virtual Read Alouds

The e-books listed below can be accessed through the New York Public Library's digital collections and touch on the themes of the activity. We recommend reading them with your child before or after completing the activity.



**[Too Many Tamales](#)**  
by Gary Soto  
*Accessible through the Bookflix database*



**[Cooking Class: 57 Fun Recipes Kids Will Love to Make \(and Eat!\)](#)** by Deanna Cook  
*Accessible through SimplyE and OverDrive*



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## Activity Instructions

1. Tell your child you will be creating a how-to guide that explains how to make a family recipe. Recipes are instructions that tell you how to make food at home. A family recipe shows you how to make a favorite food which may have been passed down through your family for generations.
2. Brainstorm with your child about their favorite foods, snacks, or beverages. Ask your child to think of something they enjoy eating that they would like to recreate. These recipes don't have to be complex – grilled cheese sandwiches, ice-pops, or a peanut butter & jelly sandwich are great choices! If your child has trouble, ask the following questions: *What is your favorite food that we make at home? If you had to eat one thing forever, what would it be? Which is your favorite – breakfast, lunch, or dinner? What kind of foods do you already know how to make?*
3. You can also consider choosing a food that has special meaning to your family. Talk with your child about the origin of the recipe and why your family makes that particular dish.
4. Once your child decides what snack or food they want to make, read through the **Example Recipe: Grilled Cheese Roll-Ups** (pg. 4). Help your child notice the different parts of the recipe including *ingredients with measurements* and *step-by-step instructions*.
5. Gather the ingredients for the recipe you are going to make together.

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6. On a blank piece of paper write the name of the recipe and list the ingredients and the amount of each ingredient that is needed. Optional: Print and use the **Recipe Writing Template** (pgs. 5-6).
7. Then work with your child to determine the necessary steps for making their recipe. You can have your child write down each step as you complete it or have them write down all of the steps at one time before or after making your recipe. Remember to be as specific as possible with your step-by-step instructions.
8. Have your child illustrate and color a picture of the completed recipe at the top of the **Recipe-Writing Template** or on a separate piece of paper to go with their written instructions.
9. Share the food and the recipe with family!



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## Example Recipe

### Grilled Cheese Roll-Ups

Serves: 4 people, as a snack

Timing: 15 minutes

#### Ingredients and Materials:

- 4 slices of bread
- 4 slices of cheese (cheddar or American)
- 2 Tbsp. of melted butter
- Skillet
- Rolling pin (optional)

#### Instructions:

1. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.
2. Cut or tear off the dark edges of the bread.
3. Use the rolling pin or your hands to flatten each piece of bread.
4. Place a slice of cheese onto each of the flattened pieces of bread.
5. Roll the bread and cheese together to form a “roll-up”.
6. Dip each “roll-up” into the melted butter to coat the outside.
7. With an adult’s help, place the “roll-ups” in a hot skillet. Grill the “roll-ups” for about one minute on each side.
8. Put on a plate and enjoy!

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## Recipe-Writing Template

Recipe Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Serves: \_\_\_\_\_

Timing: \_\_\_\_\_

Ingredients and Materials:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



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Instructions:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

