

Circle Time Lessons

Unit overview

Day 1 Introduction - Gingerbread

Introduce the new unit: **Gingerbread**
Read the "Gingerbread Boy" story and have students predict the ending.

Day 2 What is Ginger?

Describe ginger using your five senses.

Day 3 The Gingerbread Man

Practice concepts of print and sight words by creating a pocket chart list.

Day 4 Gingerbread Houses

Take a poll to see who has built a gingerbread house before. Students create a glyph to represent facts about themselves.

Day 5 Gingerbread Cookies

Play with rhymes using gingerbread pairs. Practice number recognition with a fun carpet game.

Introduction
Gingerbread Boy Story

The story of the gingerbread boy is a childhood favorite. Listen to the simplified version of the story and allow students to predict the ending.

Objectives:

- The students will interact and participate in story time.
- The students will understand the purpose of writing.

Activities:

- Print, laminate and cut apart the story. Use the pictures to make flannel board pieces or stick puppets. Read the story to the students using the visuals.
- Print the journal sheets. Students can use the journal prompts to write and draw a picture. The words can also be written for the student if necessary.

Extension Idea:
Play a version of "Duck, Duck, Goose." One student walks around the circle, lightly tapping classmates and saying "Duck, duck, GOOSE!" The student who gets tagged with "Goose" chooses the tapper around the circle while the other students say "Run, run as fast as you can!"

Day 1 lesson plans

What is Ginger?
Sensory Experience

Many people recognize the smell of ginger, but where does it come from? Explore ginger using all of your senses in this fun, interactive lesson.

Objectives:

- Students will classify ginger using their senses.
- Students will play with words, sounds and rhymes.

Activities:

- Show the real-life photographs of ginger. What do you notice? When possible, bring in raw ginger, powdered ginger, ginger ale, ginger tea, and/or gingerbread for students to explore with their senses. What does it look like? What does it smell like? What does it feel like? Complete class chart.
- Use the real-life photographs of ginger. What do you notice? When possible, bring in raw ginger, powdered ginger, ginger ale, ginger tea, and/or gingerbread for students to explore with their senses. What does it look like? What does it smell like? What does it feel like? Complete class chart. Hold up picture prompts for

Day 2 lesson plans

The Gingerbread Man
Run, Run, as Fast as You Can!

A gingerbread man is simply a cookie decorated with icing. Although our cookies won't run away, they sure will taste good! Read details from the Gingerbread Boy story while practicing concepts of print.

Objectives:

- The students will actively participate in conversations.
- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.

Activities:

- Show the photograph of a child decorating a gingerbread man to the students. Remind students of the story from Day 1. Discuss what happened in the story.
- Read the poem "The Gingerbread Man." Add each of the sentences to the pocket chart. Use the picture cards to help emergent readers remember each line.

Extension Idea:
Play a gingerbread running freeze game. The teacher says, "Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me." On the gingerbread man's write students run in place. When teachers say "Freeze!" students stop running and stand still.

Day 3 lesson plans

Gingerbread Houses
A Decorative Masterpiece

Another way to use gingerbread dough is to create a gingerbread house. Instead of cutting out a body shape, you cut out different shapes and decorate it like a house.

Objectives:

- The students will express themselves using words and sentences.
- The students will respond to comments and questions.
- The students will manipulate objects with their hands.

Activities:

- Show the photograph posters. Ask the students, "What kind of decorations would you use on a gingerbread house?"
- Take a poll: Students use name cards or post-it notes to "vote" for their answer on a bar graph. Have you ever built a

Day 4 lesson plans

Gingerbread Cookies
Delicious Artwork!

Gingerbread cookies date back to the 16th century. You can cut them into any shape you'd like and the decorating possibilities are endless!

Objectives:

- The students will recognize rhyming words.
- The students will recognize numbers.

Activities:

- Show photographs. Ask if students have ever used a rolling pin to roll out dough.
- Display one of the gingerbread man pairs. If the pictures rhyme, tell the students to say "Run, run, as fast as you can!". If the pictures do not rhyme, students put a finger over the mouth and say, "Shh!"
- Play "Gingerbread Boy" carpet game.

Extension Idea:
Make gingerbread play dough. (Recipe on page 109.) Provide rolling pins and cookie cutters and allow students 15 minutes to play.

To Play the Game:

- Line up the pictures of the houses. Numbers 1-26 are included. Pick the right number of cards for your students. Identify the numbers together.
- Hide the gingerbread boy under one of the houses and recite the poem to find it. Children guess where the boy is hiding by identifying the number of the house.

Day 5 lesson plans

Introduction

Gingerbread Boy Story

Day 1
lesson
plans

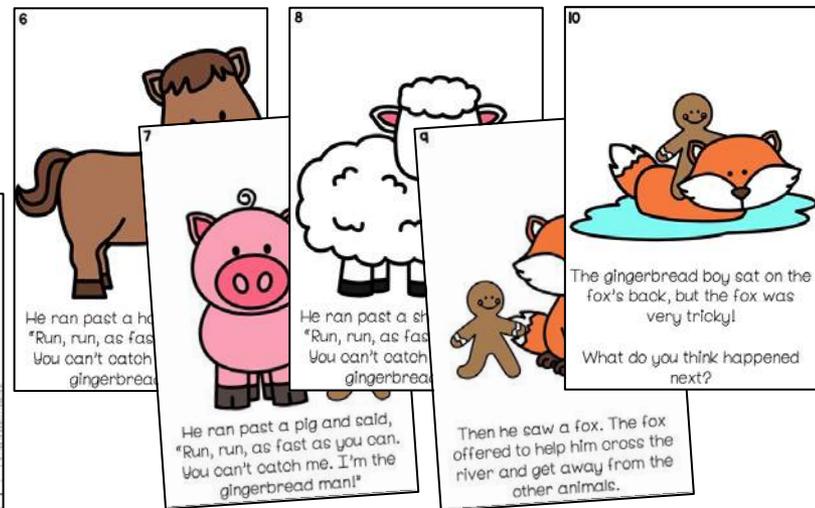
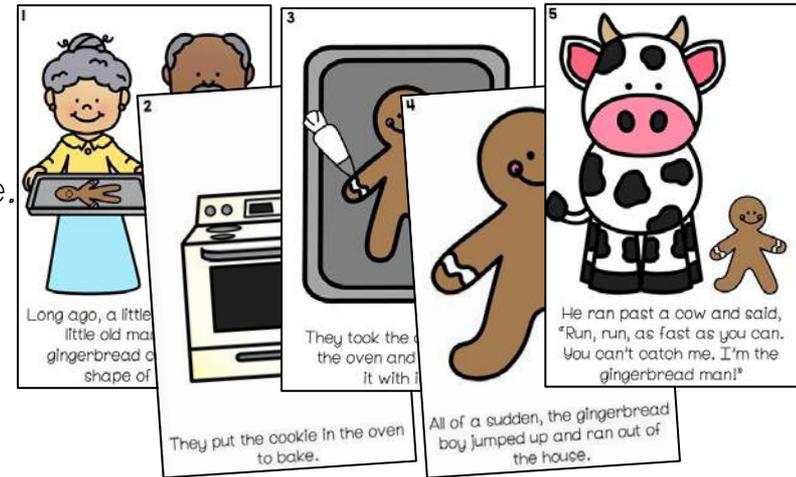
The story of the gingerbread boy is a childhood favorite. Listen to the simplistic version of the story and allow students to predict the ending.

Objectives:

- The students will interact and participate in story time.
- The students will understand the purpose of writing.

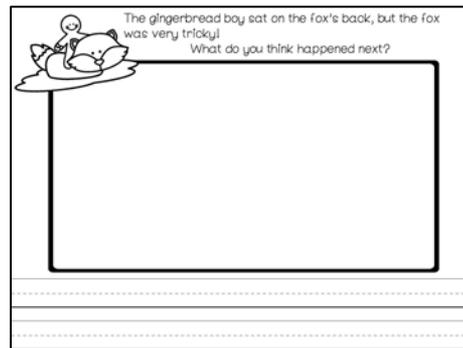
Activities:

1. Print, laminate and cut apart the story. Use the pictures to make flannel board pieces or stick puppets. Read the story to the students using the visuals.
2. Print the journal sheets. Students can use the journal prompts to write and draw a picture. The words can also be written for the student if necessary.



Extension Idea:

Play a version of "Duck, Duck, Goose." One student walks around the circle, lightly tapping classmates and saying "Stay, stay, RUN!" The student who gets tagged with "run" chases the tagger around the circle while the other students say "Run, run, as fast as you can!"



What is Ginger?

Sensory Experience

Day 2
lesson
plans

Many people recognize the smell of ginger, but where does it come from? Explore ginger using all of your senses in this fun, interactive lesson.

Objectives:

- Students will classify ginger using their senses.
- Students will play with words, sounds and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Show the real-life photographs of ginger. What do you notice?
2. When possible, bring in raw ginger, powdered ginger, ginger ale, ginger tea, and/or gingerbread for students to explore with their senses. What does it look like? What does it smell like? What does it feel like? Complete class chart.
3. Sing "Ginger is a Root" as a class. Hold up picture prompts for each verse.



Extension Idea:

Create gingerbread scented paints using gingerbread extract. Student paintings can be hung around the classroom or sent home as a gift.

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/scented-paint/>



SCAN ME

Ginger is a Root
(To the Tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Ginger grows as a root,
As a root, as a root.
Ginger grows as a root,
It's used in many ways.

It is dried and used in cookies,
Used in cookies, used in cookies.
It is dried and used in cookies,
It tastes so good!

Repeat verses with:

- Steep / hot tea
- Chopped / stir-fry
- Out / candy



We can describe **GINGER**

Looks 	Smells
Sounds 	
Feels 	Tastes

The Gingerbread Man

Run, Run, as Fast as You Can!

Day 3
Lesson
Plans

A gingerbread man is simply a cookie decorated with icing. Although our cookies won't run away, they sure will taste good! Recall details from the Gingerbread Boy story while practicing concepts of print.

Objectives:

- The students will actively participate in conversations.
- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.

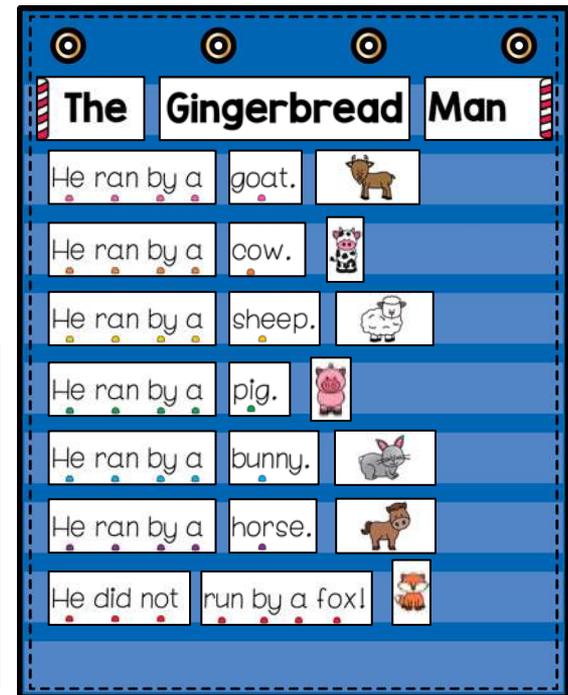
Activities:

1. Show the photograph of a child decorating a gingerbread man to the students. Remind students of the story from Day 1. Discuss what happened in the story.
2. Read the poem "The Gingerbread Man." Add each of the sentences to the pocket chart. Use the picture cards to help emergent readers remember each line.



Extension Idea:

Play a gingerbread running freeze game. The teacher says, "Run, Run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me. I'm the gingerbread man!" while students run in place. When teachers says "Freeze!" students stop running and stand still.



Gingerbread Houses

A Decorative Masterpiece

Day 4
lesson
plans

Another way to use gingerbread dough is to create a gingerbread house. Instead of cutting out a body shape, you cut out different shapes and decorate it like a house.

Objectives:

- The students will express themselves using words and sentences.
- The students will respond to comments and questions.
- The students will manipulate objects with their hands.

Activities:

1. Show the photograph posters. Ask the students, "What kind of decorations would you use on a gingerbread house?"
2. Take a poll: Students use name cards or post-it notes to "vote" for their answer on a bar graph. Have you ever built a gingerbread house?
3. Print out a glyph page for each student. Pre-cut shapes (either from attached sheet or out of construction paper) and have available on trays. Complete a glyph in a pocket chart, step by step. Students decorate their houses as the teacher models each step.

Extension Idea:

Build your own gingerbread houses out of graham crackers. Pre-assemble houses and allow students to practice fine motor skills by providing sprinkles, candies, icing bags, etc. to decorate the houses.

Yes, I have.	No, not yet.
Alex	George
Thomas	Angelica
Eliza	Peggy
	Aaron

I can create a glyph.

Color your house.
Boy = green
girl = yellow

There are ___ people in my family.

I have ___ pets.

I am ___ years old.

I like school.

I love school.

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Gingerbread Cookies

Delicious Artwork

Day 5
lesson
plans

Gingerbread cookies date back to the 16th century. You can cut them into any shape you'd like and the decorating possibilities are endless!

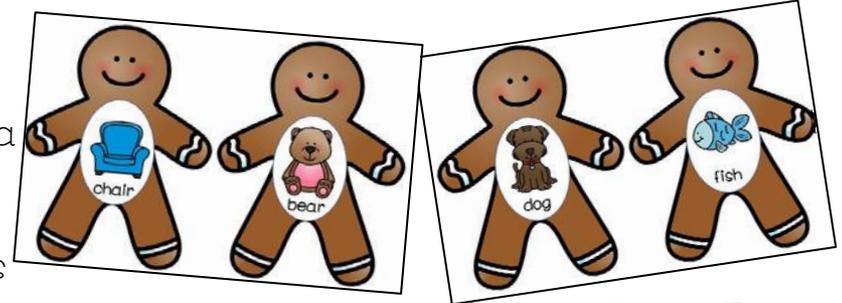


Objectives:

- The students will recognize rhyming words.
- The students will recognize numbers.

Activities:

1. Show photographs. Ask if students have ever used a rolling pin to roll out dough.
2. Display one of the gingerbread man pairs. If the pictures rhyme, tell the students to say, "Run, run, as fast as you can!". If the pictures do not rhyme, students put a finger over the mouth and say, "Shhh!"
3. Play "Gingerbread Boy" carpet game.



Extension Idea:

Make gingerbread play dough (recipe on page 113). Provide rolling pins and cookie cutters and allow students' imaginations to soar.

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/gingerbread-play-dough/>

To Play the Game:

- Line up the pictures of the houses. (Numbers 1-16 are included. Pick the right number of cards for your students.) Identify the numbers together.
- Hide the gingerbread boy under one of the houses and recite the poem to find it.
- Children guess where the boy is hiding by identifying the number of the house.



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Other Types of Cookies

Sweet Treats

Day 6
lesson
plans

There are six main kinds of cookies: bar cookies, drop cookies, rolled cookies, molded cookies, refrigerator cookies and pressed cookies. Each kind of cookie is unique.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds and rhymes.
- The students will count sets to 5 and make combinations of objects to create a set.

Activities:

1. Show photographs of cookies. Ask students to discuss their favorite kind of cookie.
2. Make cookie chip clips and attach them to a paper plate. Recite the chip clip poem, "5 Yummy Cookies." Remove a cookie from the plate as the poem counts down.
3. Sing "Make the Cookies." Use the song cards and have students act out motions for each verse.



Extension Idea:

Create a cookie shop Dramatic Play Center.



SCAN ME

Students take orders, follow directions and serve customers.

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/cookie-shop-dramatic-play/>



Gingerbread Loaf

Tastes and Textures

Day 7
Lesson
Plans

Gingerbread cookies are usually crispy and can be cut into different shapes. You can use similar ingredients and spices to create a softer loaf of gingerbread bread. It has many of the same spices, but it is softer and cut into slices.

Objectives:

- The students will sort objects by property. (size, shape, color, use)
- The students will play with words, sounds and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Show photographs of gingerbread. Discuss how, although it has many of the same flavors and spices as the cookies, its texture is very different.
2. Sort pictures into two groups: Things that are soft and things that are hard.
3. Sing "Bake the Bread" as a class. Act out the motions of each verse by moving your hands to mix, knead, bake or slice the bread.



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **bread**. Hold one hand with palm facing your body. Use the other hand to make vertical slices.



Bake the Bread

To the Tune of "Bingo"

There was a baker who made the bread
He did it every day!
Mix, mix, mix the bread.
Mix, mix, mix the bread.
Mix, mix, mix the bread.
He did it every day!

Repeat:

- Knead the dough
- Bake the bread
- Slice the bread

These things are:



soft

hard

Scavenger Hunt

Run, run, as fast as you can. Can you find the gingerbread man?

Day 8
lesson
plans

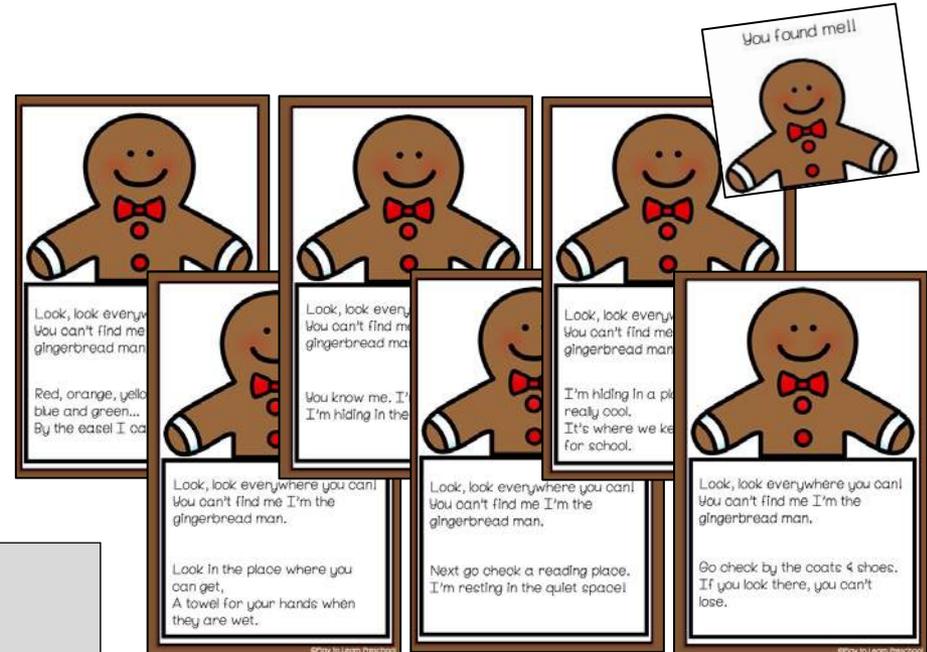
The gingerbread man has run away again! Listen carefully to the clues. Can you help us find him?

Objectives:

- The students will work on a task through completion.
- The students will play with words, sounds and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Review the gingerbread boy story from Day 1. What did the boy do? (He ran away calling out, "Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me I'm the gingerbread man!")
2. Sing "Run, Run!" together as a class. Have students run in place when the boy runs in the song.
3. Hide the gingerbread pictures in assigned spaces around the room prior to the lesson. Read clues, one at a time, to the class as a whole. Students will work together to find the hidden pictures around the room.



Extension Idea:

Play gingerbread boy "Simon Says." Give actions such as "Gingerbread Boy" says touch your toes. Students follow directions any time it is preceded by "Gingerbread Boy says."

Story Variations

Create Your Own

Day 9
lesson
plans

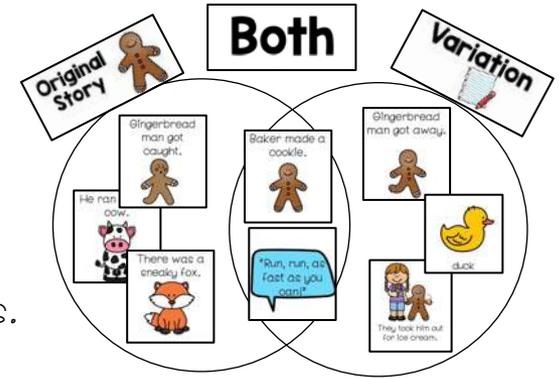
The gingerbread man story has been told many times over. In each version, there are slight changes that make the story unique. In today's lesson, you will create a shared writing using variations in character, actions and endings.

Objectives:

- The students will compare and make connections between stories.
- The students will retell a story, including characters and story events.

Activities:

1. Gather a few renditions of the gingerbread story from the library. Read aloud as a class. Complete a Venn diagram to highlight the similarities and differences among the stories.
 - Some of our favorite versions are:
 - "The Gingerbread Baby" by Jan Brett
 - "The Gingerbread Cowboy" by Janet Squires
 - "The Gingerbread Girl" by Lisa Campbell Ernst
2. Do a shared writing to create a class version of the gingerbread story. Follow the attached template, having students pull cards from each pile to fill in the blanks. Story strips are also included if you choose to display in a pocket chart.



The Gingerbread Man

A Shared Writing Experience

Once upon a time, a baker made a gingerbread man. When he came out of the oven, he  away, yelling, "Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man."

He ___ past a . He ___ past a .

He ___ past a _____. But he didn't _____

past a . Instead, _____.



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Conclusion

Unit Conclusion

Day 10
lesson
plans

Gingerbread has been around for hundreds of years. We have explored many ways to enjoy this delicious treat.

Objectives:

- The students will recognize and label their own feelings, emotions and preferences.
- The students will notice and extend simple patterns.

Activities:

1. Discuss activities from the unit. Which was your favorite?
2. Take a poll. Students use name cards or post-it notes to “vote” for their answer on a bar graph. Which gingerbread item would you most like to try?
3. Play the Gingerbread Grid Game.

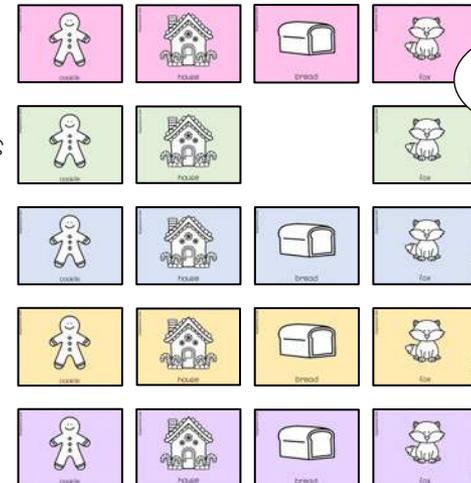
Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **cookie**. See illustration for details.



To Play:

- Copy the attached page onto 4-5 different colors of paper.
- Create a grid where each column has the same picture and each row is the same color. Discuss the pattern and relationship of the cards.
- Students close their eyes while the teacher removes 1 card.
- Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which card (color and picture) is missing.



Which one is missing?

Center Activities

Centers

- Line Tracing
- Cutting Practice
- Beginning Sound Sorts
- Beginning Sound Clips
- Word Wall Cards
- Play Dough Mats
- Matching Gumdrops
- Shape Sorting
- Visual Discrimination
- Gingerbread Patterns
- Runaway Cookie Carpet Game
- Gingerbread Subitizing
- Book List (recommendations)

Line Tracing

Objective: The students will understand the purpose of writing.
Preparation: Print and laminate these tracing cards. Another option is to place them inside a plastic sleeve. Provide dry erase markers. (Glue a pom-pom onto the lid of the marker for the students to use as an eraser).

Cutting Practice

Objective: The students coordinate eye-hand movement and control the small muscles in their hands.

Beginning Sound Clips

Objective: Students will identify the first sound of each picture and locate the corresponding letter.
Preparation: Print the cards, mat, laminate and cut apart.
Procedure: Students say the picture and listen for the first sound. Then they attach a clothes pin to the matching letter.

Beginning Sound Sort

Objectives: The students will identify the beginning sound of each word.
Preparation: Copy the picture cards. Glue the cover on the front, and the sorting mats on the inside. Cut and laminate the smaller pieces.
Procedure: Students sort the pictures by their beginning sound.

Word Wall Cards

Use the cards in a pocket chart to make an animal word wall.
 Provide pencils, crayons, paper, markers, etc. In the writing center and encourage the students to write letters and words from the wall.

Play Dough Mats

Objective: The students will manipulate objects with hands and identify letters.
Preparation: Print the letter mats. Make the gingerbread play dough (recipe included). Provide rolling pins, cookie cutters and beads for students to make their 'cookies.'
 The students strengthen their fine motor skills and alphabet knowledge by playing with play dough. After working with the dough in class, send a small bag on student. Place the "Gingerbread Play Dough" tags on the bags.

Matching Gumdrops

Objective: The students will count sets of objects up to 10.
Preparation: Copy each puzzle, laminate and cut apart.
Procedure: Students match the pictures and assemble the 2-piece puzzles.

Gingerbread Subitizing

Objectives: The students will count sets to 5 and 10 and make corresponding sets.
 Copy, cut out and laminate gingerbread men and bags, as a folder game or on a bulletin board.
 Students fill in the frame with the correct number of items.

Shape Sorting

Objective: The students will sort objects by property.
Preparation: Print the cards.
Procedure: Students sort corresponding cookies.

Gingerbread Patterns

Objective: The students will identify and extend simple patterns.
Preparation: Print the pattern cards and pieces, mat, laminate and cut apart.
Procedure: Students identify and extend the pattern.

Runaway Cookie Carpet Game

Objectives: The students will recognize numbers.
Preparation: Copy and cut out the picture cards. Line up the pictures of the cookie jars on the carpet.
Procedure: Identify numbers and colors together. Hide the gingerbread boy under one of the houses and recite the poem to find it. Students guess where the boy is hiding by identifying the number and/or color of the cookie jar.

Visual Discrimination

Objective: The students will use visual discrimination skills to match the items.
Preparation: Copy the picture cards. Glue the large pictures (first 2 pages) inside a file folder. Cut and laminate the smaller pictures.
Procedure: Students place matching pictures together.

Runaway Cookie

Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't find him.
 He's the gingerbread man!

Gingerbread Books for Preschoolers

Original Gingerbread Stories

- The Gingerbread Man by Marcia Alperin
- The Gingerbread Boy by Richard Egall
- The Gingerbread Man by Scholastic
- The Gingerbread Boy by Janet Squires
- The Gingerbread Man by Robert Dennis
- The Gingerbread Man by Gail Vignetti

Twist on the Original

- The Gingerbread Girl by Lisa Campbell Ernst
- The Gingerbread Cowboy by Lisa Campbell Ernst
- The Gingerbread Girl Goes Animal Crackers by Lisa Campbell Ernst
- The Gingerbread Man by C.J. Leigh
- The Gingerbread Cowboy by Janet Squires
- The Gingerbread Bear by Robert Dennis
- The Gingerbread Man 2: What Happened Later? by Stephen Dixon

Other Gingerbread Stories

- The Gingerbread Christmas by Scholastic
- Gingerbread Baby by Jan Brett
- Gingerbread Family by Jan Brett
- The Gingerbread Family by Grace Maccaroni
- The Gingerbread Pirates by Kristin Stodt
- Gingerbread Man Lives in the School by Laura Murray
- The Gingerbread House by Katy Butler
- Wacky Wakes Gingerbread by Lucy Collier
- Ten Tiny Gingerbread Men by Scholastic
- Ten Gingerbread Men by Ruth Galloway
- Back from Get Cookie! by Margie Palatka

Cookies

- Who Took the Cookie from the Cookie Jar? by Scholastic
- The Cookie Race by Dan Santat
- Mmm, Cookies! by Robert Munsch
- The Doorniel Song by Pat Hutchins
- Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar? by Bonnie Loss & Phyllon Sturge