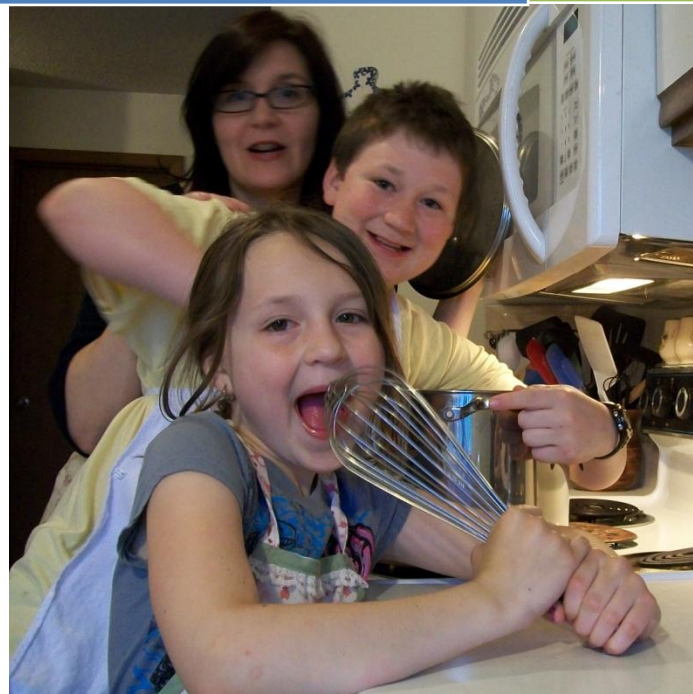


Two Kids Cooking

Encouraging families to cook, learn and have fun together in the kitchen.

2011 Gift Guide: The Best Gifts for the Mini-Chef in Your Life



(and a mom)
Two Kids Cooking

The Two Kids Cooking family is all about teaching kids to cook and showing families how easy it is to spend time together preparing meals. If you have kids that love cooking like I do, you'll want to keep on encouraging them. Getting them a cooking related gift will do just that. To help you make your selection, we compiled a list of ideas for you, along with some of our favorites in each category.

Kids Cooking Kits

Cooking kits are an excellent gift for beginning cooks that have an affinity for a specific kind of cooking—say, making cupcakes or pizza. They are also good for beginner chefs who need more direction with their culinary artistry.

Pre-Packaged Cooking Kits

There are tons of pre-package kits out there, specific to a certain cooking activity, like baking cookies, and there are kits that are more generalized to things like fruit and veggie prep or measuring. We've shared some of our favorites from Curious Chef below, but there are many additional options available online and in stores.



When buying a cooking kit, we recommend purchasing one with tools that are meant for real cooking, not toys. Not that cooking toys are bad, it's just that the intention of a cooking kit should be to get the kids cooking real food. (Cooking related toys are great, too, though, just now what we we're thinking of for this category).

Personalized Kits

Sophia loves to bake and a couple of years back her Grandma put together a Personalized Baking Kit just for her. It included a mixing bowl, measuring cups, a whisk, some spatulas and an apron. Grandma simply went to a store with cooking tools and picked out some that she felt would work best—Sophia loved it. Even though we keep her kitchen tools mixed with mine, she still tells me which ones are specifically hers.

The nice thing about this 'build-a-kit' approach is that you can pick sizes, colors and specific food related tools that match with your child's personality. You could even throw in some ingredients and a recipe so you can get in the kitchen using them right away.

Our favorite Pre-Packaged Kits:

- [Curious Chef 6 Piece Fruit and Veggie Prep](#)
- [Curious Chef 16-Piece Cupcake and Decorating Kit](#)
- [Curious Chef 17-Piece Measure & Prep Kit](#)
- [Curious Chef 15-Piece Pizza Party Kit](#)
- [Curious Chef 27-Piece Foundation Set](#)

Kids Cooking Tools

When you can't find the perfect kit for that cooking kid in your life, or, you just want to supplement another gift—say a cookbook—with a little something more; That's when specific cooking tools fit perfectly in place. Also, any of these tools would work as part of a do-it-yourself cooking kit as well.

For older kids who like to cooking, starting their collection of good cookware, including things like pots & pans and knives, is not a bad option either. Then, when they finally graduate to their own kitchen (i.e. leave for their own place), they will have decent tools to work with.

Picking tools that will work best for your young chef is important. If they cannot effectively use the tool, they'll get discouraged. Although the list is endless, here are some ideas for specific cooking tool gifts:

- Safety Knife Sets
- Cutting Boards
- Bowl Sets
- Spatulas
- Rolling Pins
- Pizza Cutters
- Measuring Cups and Spoons
- Kitchen Scissors
- Baking Sheets
- Pots & Pans



Kids Cooking Tools:

[Curious Chef](#)

[Kuhn Rikon Kids](#)

[Sassafras](#)





Kids Cooking Accessories

We have many cooking accessories, like our handmade aprons from Grandma, and we love 'em. Cooking Accessories are not only fun, but very useful gifts for your aspiring cook. Some accessories you might consider include:

- Chef's Hats
- Aprons
- Kitchen Towels
- Chef's Jackets
- Oven Mitts

Oh, and don't forget, personalizing with an embroidered name can make a special gift, extra special!

Kids Cooking Accessories:

- [Curious Child Chef Apron Set - Blue & Green](#)
- [Jessie Steele Cupcakes Apron - Kids](#)
- [Sassafras Railroad Kitchen Engineer Apron Set](#)
- [Sassafras Little Cook Kit](#)
- [Kids / Child's Aprons, Denim](#)

Kids Cook Books

There are so many fun cookbooks out there designed for kids and families, and we have many of them. So, for this section, we're recommending specific books and offering our thoughts on each of them.

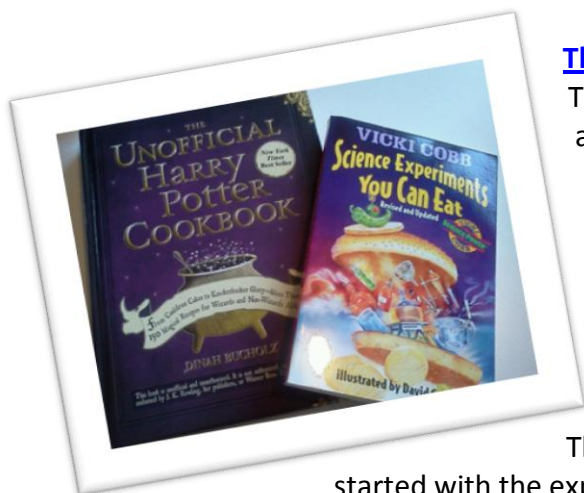
Teen Cuisine

Although we really like the recipes we've tried from this cookbook, some of my favorite sections of this book include the Metric Conversion Chart, the Kitchen and Utensils section, and the Kitchen Essentials area. This cookbook is great for providing tips and facts in addition to older kid-friendly recipes and tasty food.



Barbara Beery Cookbooks

We have most of Barbara Beery's cookbooks. Soph and I love 'em; But, they are very 'girly,' so, Alex doesn't appreciate them the same way we do. The recipes are all great for making with kids and our favorite book, the 'Spa Princess Cookbook,' includes recipes for beauty treatments...we especially like the Sweet Princess Sugar Scrub. :D



[The Unofficial Harry Potter Cookbook](#)

This is a recent acquisition to our collection of cookbooks and we've only made one recipe so far—a very chocolately, delicious recipe—but this book is quite charming. Each recipe has a story/factoid attached to it as well as an introduction that ties it to a character from the Harry Potter Movies. It's a good gift for a fan of these magical stories.

[Science Experiments You Can Eat](#)

This title is new to us as well, but we're excited to get started with the experiments. The chapters are divided into things like 'Solutions', 'Suspensions, Colloids, and Emulsions', 'Kitchen Chemistry' and 'Proteins.' Each 'recipe' includes a materials & equipment list, the procedure you'll be performing and information about the observations that you will make. This book is perfect for any science loving mini-chef.

[Recipe Book & Cards](#)

When I left home for college, my Mom gave me a cookbook that included several recipes along with empty pages for me to fill with on my own in the future—I still have it today. A gift that will be treasured forever is a recipe book that includes the favorite recipes you cook together along with empty recipe cards, ready for you to fill-up in the future, together.

[Kids Cooking Toys](#)

Cooking toys are perfect for make believe cooking. Alex, Sophia and I have had some pretty fancy make believe meals in our day, all of them made with 100% imagination. Cooking toys allow kids to pretend to work through kitchen situations, even when they are too young to actually perform specific cooking tasks themselves.

When I was a kid, one of our favorite toys was a kitchen set we had in the basement. We'd play house, restaurant, and cooking show with that thing. Even at age 8, Sophia still has hers at her Dad's and whenever I'm over there, she usually has to 'cook' me up something in her kitchen. She also has an assortment of plastic foods, from bread to tomatoes, chicken, eggs...you name it, she has it in a plastic form.



There is also the infamous Easy Bake Oven, and things like the Press Dough and the Girl Gourmet sets. Although I prefer using real tools when cooking with real food, these are options kids do like. Sophia asks for an Easy Bake Oven every year, even though she knows I'd rather get her real cooking tools, (Alex had an Easy Bake when he was a younger—a hand-me-down from his cousins—and I just didn't get into cooking over a light bulb when the stove was right there). The best thing about cooking toys, though, is that they are great for getting young kids thinking about having fun in the kitchen.

Cooking Toys:

[Toy Kitchens](#)

[Pretend Food](#)

[Toy Cooking Tools](#)

[Restaurant Sets](#)

[Easy Bake Ovens](#)

[Press Dough Cookie Factory](#)

And that concludes our recommendations for the mini-chefs in your life. We hope it helps you find that perfect gift!

Have a Wonderful Holiday Season, and Happy Family Cooking Everyone!

Kelly, Alex and Sophia

Kids Cooking Resources the Two Kids and Mom Love

- [Food with Kids Appeal](#)
- [Super Healthy Kids](#)
- [What's Cooking Blog](#)
- [Birthday in a Box](#)
- [Kid Approved Meals](#)
- [TheLunchBox.org](#)
- [Doof](#)
- [Recipe Shoebox](#)
- [The Scramble](#)
- [CafeMom.com](#)

Disclosures

Two Kids Cooking only recommends products that we are familiar with and/or have tried.

Some of the links to ideas and products in this article are affiliate links. If you click on them and make a purchase, Two Kids Cooking will receive some compensation.