



# Gingerbread Theme

Run, run, as fast as you can... Don't miss out on this fun theme!

## Language & Literacy

### Books

#### ***Gingerbread Baby***

by Jan Brett

#### ***The Gingerbread Girl***

by Lisa Campbell Ernst

#### ***Gingerbread Friends***

by Jan Brett

#### ***The Gingerbread Man***

by Jim Aylesworth

#### ***The Gingerbread Girl Goes***

#### ***Animal Crackers***

by Lisa Campbell Ernst

#### ***The Gingerbread Pirates***

by Kristin Kladstrup

#### ***The Gingerbread Boy***

by Paul Galdone

#### ***Gingerbread Mouse***

by Katy Bratun

#### ***The Gingerbread Man***

by Karen Schmidt

#### ***The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School***

by Laura Murray

#### ***Catch That Cookie!***

by Hallie Durand

#### ***The Gingerbread Boy***

by Richard Egielski

#### ***The Gingerbread Cowboy***

by Janet Squires

#### ***Maisy Makes Gingerbread***

by Lucy Cousins

## Songs, Poems, & Finger-plays

### Five Little Cookies

(hold up five fingers and then bend one down at a time to go with the poem)

Five little cookies with frosting galore,  
Mother ate the white one, then there were four.  
Four little cookies, two and two, you see,  
Father ate the green one, then there were three,  
Three little cookies, but before I knew,  
Sister ate the yellow one, then there where two.  
Two little cookies, oh, what, fun!  
Brother ate the brown one, then there was one.  
One little cookie, watch me run!  
I ate the red one, then there were none!

Make a set of flannel board cookies with number words written on them. Invite students to take down the cookies one at a time.

## **Activities**

**Gingerbread Man Flannel Board-** Create flannel board pieces of the story of the original Gingerbread man story, use them to narrate the story to the kids, later allow them to use the pieces to retell the story. Don't forget the ever-famous line... "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I 'm the gingerbread man!"

**Gingerbread Story Starter-** Print a copy of the **Gingerbread Activity Cards** from the **Theme Enhancement Page**. Invite the children to choose cards as you create a story together. Write the story on chart paper and post it in the classroom.

## **Math & Number Concepts**

**Gingerbread Man Counting-** Use disposable cookie sheets or just pieces of foil cut in the shape of a cookie sheet. Label each sheet with a number; provide enough gingerbread man shapes cut from construction paper (school supply stores often sell popular shapes like this pre-cut) that the children can practice placing the correct number of cookies on each sheet.

**Gingerbread Person Matching Cards-** Make a set of gingerbread matching cards by decorating pairs of gingerbread shapes the same.

## **Art**

**Decorate a Gingerbread Boy/Girl/House-** Cut desired shapes from a heavy brown construction paper. Let the children decorate them any way they wish by gluing on different candies, like gum drops, red hot candies, peppermints, M&M's, etc. Encourage the children to add "frosting" details with glitter glue pens!

**Gingerbread People Finger-paint-** Provide chocolate pudding or brown finger-paint and large gingerbread shapes cut from finger-paint paper. Encourage the children to finger-paint on large cut outs of a gingerbread boy with chocolate pudding!

**Colorful Gingerbread People-** Hang gingerbread person shapes on the easel with bingo daubers or paint daubers for the children to decorate with.

## **Dramatic Play**

Add some baking accessories to the kitchen play area. Cookie sheets, cookie cutters, spatulas, aprons, rolling pins, and fake cookies cut from felt, fun foam, or construction paper would be great!

## **Music & Movement**

Try this music and movement activity; it is similar to going on a bear hunt. You lead the children around the room acting out the different places you must go through to try and catch the gingerbread man.

### ***Can You Catch the Gingerbread Man?***

There was once a little gingerbread man,  
He would always say, "Catch me if you can!"  
Where he was running to  
no one ever knew,  
But they tried to catch him and you can too!  
First he jumped down on the floor, (everyone jumps in place)  
Then he went right out the door. (open a door and walk through)  
On a bumpy path that led to town, (walk like it is really bumpy)  
Where there were people all around. (look around like you are surrounded)  
Then he ran down a curvy trail, (walk around the room in a curvy line)  
To the river and the Foxes tail. (jump like you are getting on the foxes tail)  
Now don't let that gingerbread boy get away, (put your hands out like you are trying to catch him)  
Grab him quickly before the Fox has his way. (make a grabbing action like you have the gingerbread man in your hands)  
Oh he smells so good and yummy! (rub your tummy)  
I'd like to have him in my tummy! (Pretend to eat him up! Then brush the crumbs off your hands.)

## **Science & Sensory**

Ginger spiced play-dough is a great fun for pretending to make cookies! Make some brown play-dough add some ginger spices to it, maybe even some cinnamon and nutmeg too! Provide gingerbread man & woman cookie cutters, rolling pins, and even a cookie sheet or two!

## **Blocks & Building**

Have the kids create their own gingerbread house with blocks!

## **Technology**

Star Fall- Create a gingerbread person book

<http://www.starfall.com/n/holiday/gingerbread/load.htm?f&n=main>

Check out the 2care2teach4kids YouTube channel for an entire playlist of Gingerbread Themed videos and stories.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOTU3w6zq0I&list=PLezMmnV83mD0rpTN6U2jN6N3HLwZleLA0>

## **Cooking & Snacks**

**Gingerbread Houses-** Kids can construct a simple gingerbread house with some graham crackers, frosting and a few pieces of candy.

**Gingerbread Man Cookies-** Make some cookies as a class project, or let the kids decorate already baked cookies. Yummy!

### **Bulletin Boards**

**Holiday/Winter Bulletin Board-** Have the kids create one of a kind gingerbread people and hang them on a bulletin board covered with foil to look like a cookie sheet! Title it: **"Have a Sugar and Spice Filled Holiday!"** or substitute **"Winter" for holiday.**

**Write your own ideas here...**