



Theme	Restaurant Party
Leading Up To	Ensure that you send out invitations to your 'Restaurant Party' with plenty of notice to ensure that everyone invited is able to come. You may wish to enlist some parent helpers for this day to help with serving the children at the table, so give them prior notice.
What to Bring	Ask the children and staff to bring along pictures of food from magazines or old cook books.
Decorate	Decorate the house or play area restaurant style. Have an area where you can wait to be seated with a host to show you to your table. Place tablecloths on the tables with little vases of flowers in the middle (you can make these from painted yoghurt containers in advance). Make sure the children have serviettes and little jugs of water (children may need a little help if they are not used to pouring their own water) and that their cutlery is laid out. You may wish to use plastic plates and cutlery for this day. As an alternative, you may wish to set up your eating area as a buffet, where children can walk along and select the food they wish to try.
Food	Serve the food at the table restaurant style with a sprinkling of parsley or parmesan cheese on the top for a garnish. You may wish to give them a food selection where they can choose from a menu. Alternatively, create platters for the table centre and invite children to help themselves using tongs or serving spoons buffet style. Try to offer a variety of food so that children get the sense of choice throughout the day.
Games and Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose children to be waiters (or use your parent helpers for younger children) and take the food to the tables. Allow the children to 'order' what they wish to eat. After lunch, collect your children's food pictures and discuss the different food types. You may talk about what type of restaurant each food might be found in an make a collage of your work. Talk to the children about what jobs there are in a restaurant and how each person comes together to create the dinner you order from the menu. Remember to take photos of your Restaurant Party.