



Create your own pizza parlour

In this fun pretend play activity, children will have the chance to become pizza chefs and create their own delicious pizzas. Set up a mini pizza parlour with a menu and play ingredients. This activity is designed to encourage creativity, imagination and collaborative play.

Materials:

- Blank sheets of paper for menus or use the Therapy at Home menu card provided
- Crayons, pencils or markers
- Small paper plates or cardboard for pizza bases and crusts
- Assorted craft supplies or household objects for toppings (coloured paper, cotton balls, pom-poms, sticks, sand, glitter, lego pieces, etc.)
- Aprons or chef hats (optional)
- Play money (optional)
- Small baskets, trays or cushions for delivering pizzas

WAYS TO PLAY

Menu creation

Create pizza parlour menus or print The Play Way menu cards. If making their own, provide the children with blank sheets of paper and crayons, pencils or textas. Encourage them to draw pictures of different pizza toppings and talk about what might be on a pizza.

Set up the pizza parlour

The children may like to set up the play area to resemble a pizza parlour. Place the menus on tables, or place cushions on the floor and menus in the middle. Set out the pizza bases – small paper plates or cardboard. Create a display of craft supplies or household objects for toppings, such as coloured paper cut into shapes, cotton balls or streamers for cheese and pom-poms for meats.

Chef costume (optional)

If you have aprons or chef hats, the children may wish to put them on for an extra touch of authenticity. This can add to the fun and help them get into their role.

Taking orders

Depending on the children's experiences with ordering, you may like to model the 'customer' role and the role of the 'chef.' The customer can look at the menu and decide what kind of pizza they want. The customer can then use play money to 'purchase' the pizza. Allow this to flow and observe the children negotiate and communicate during this process.

Pizza creation

Once the order is placed, the chef can start creating the pizza. They can take the toppings from the display and arrange them onto the pizza crust.

Pizza delivery

Once the pizzas are ready, the chef may like to use a small basket, tray or cushion to deliver the pizza to the customer's table. The customer can then enjoy their delicious and unique creation.

Rotate roles

Support the children to rotate roles so that each child gets a chance to be the customer and the chef. This ensures everyone has a chance to be creative and engaged in different elements of the pretend play.

TIP

Offering imaginative play experiences for children is a valuable way to foster creativity and learning. When setting up play experiences, it's important to follow the lead of the children, allowing them to take the initiative, make choices and express their thoughts and ideas. This approach empowers children to develop problem-solving skills, teach and learn from each other and thoroughly explore the play topic. By stepping back and observing the children without directing the interactions, imagination can really flourish and the play may take a completely new direction. This promotes enriching play experiences that contribute to overall development.

Pizza parlour menu

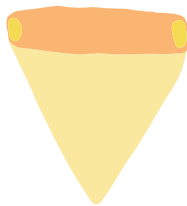
Crusts



Thin crust

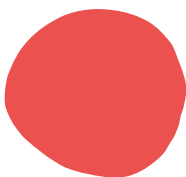


Thick crust



Cheesy stuffed crust

Sauces



Tomato sauce



White garlic sauce



Rainbow unicorn sauce
(sparkly and magical!)

Cheeses



Mozzarella



Cheddar

Vegetables



Mushrooms

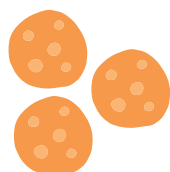


Capsicum



Pineapple

Meats



Salami



Chicken



Sausage



Bacon

Special toppings

Popcorn surprise

Choc chip cookie crumble

Marshmallow mushrooms

Rainbow sprinkles

REMEMBER: This menu is purely for imaginative and creative play, so feel free to let the children come up with even more fun pizza toppings and combinations!