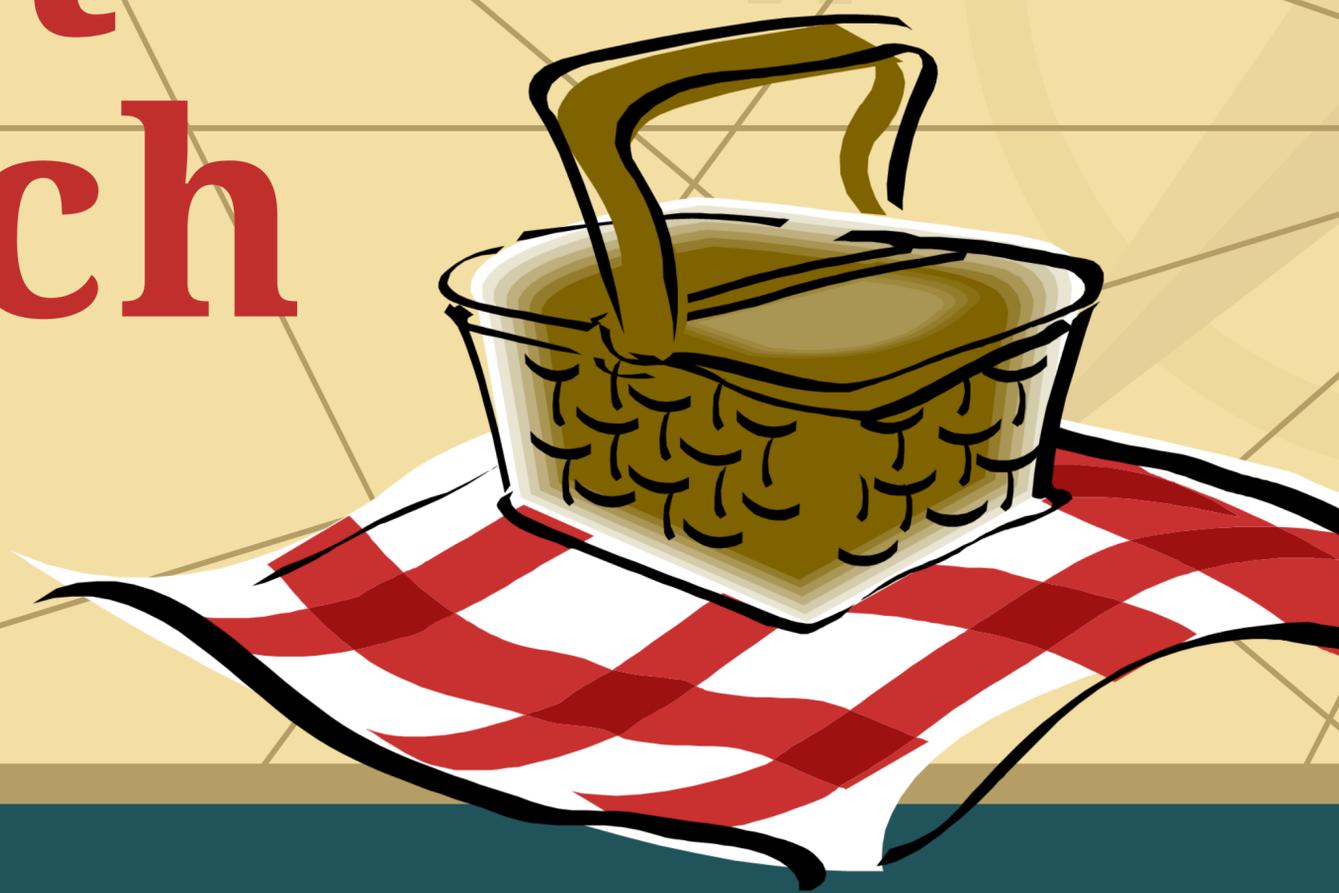


Treat your children to a

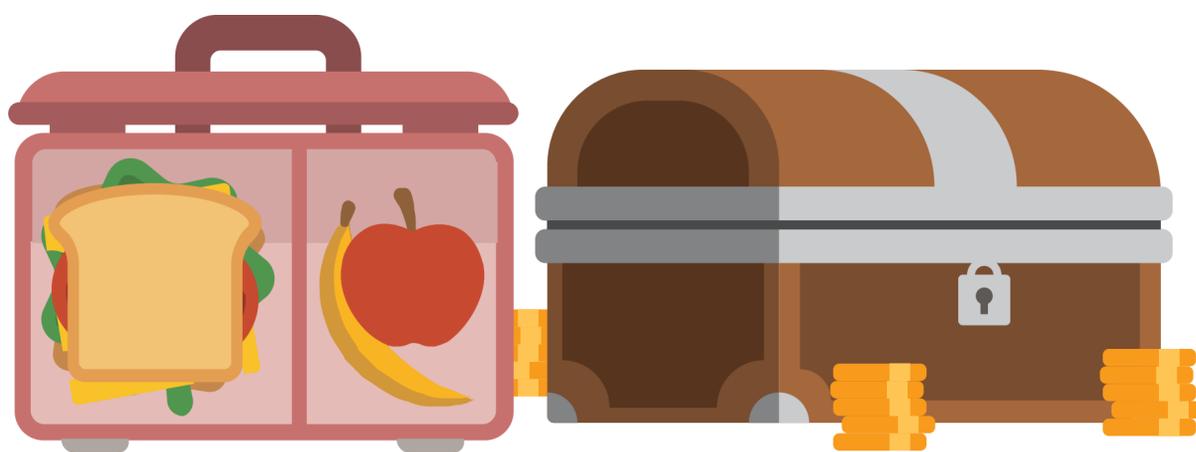
Treasure Hunt Lunch



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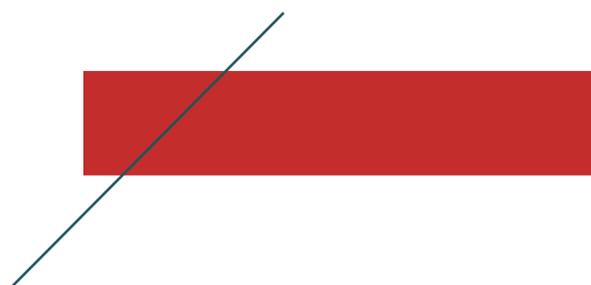
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Once in a while try spicing up lunch time with your children by having a Treasure Hunt Lunch. Beforehand, prepare some simple finger foods and hide them around the house. Use clues that lead to where they will find each course. (I like to make the clues rhyme for fun!) At each stop, have an easy-to-read book ready to read to them as they eat.



Here's an example of a Treasure Hunt Lunch that I did with my children years ago:

Hang up a sign that greets your guests:



Attach an envelope with the first clue to the welcome sign. Let the children take turns reading the clues out loud.

First clue:

The first clue will send your guests to a child's bedroom. Have bowl of cut up carrots available and your first book. While you read aloud, everyone can enjoy the carrots. When you are done, another child reads the next clue.

I'm so glad you're here.
Are you ready to eat?
Our first course to share
is a crunchy treat.
For this clue you do not need a
map.
Go to the place where (child's
name) takes a nap.

Second clue:

Our second course is salty
and crunches.
To find it,
Go to Mom's room
And open the closet.

The children will find a plate of cheese and crackers in the closet along with the next book to enjoy while eating. Give them the third clue.

Third clue:

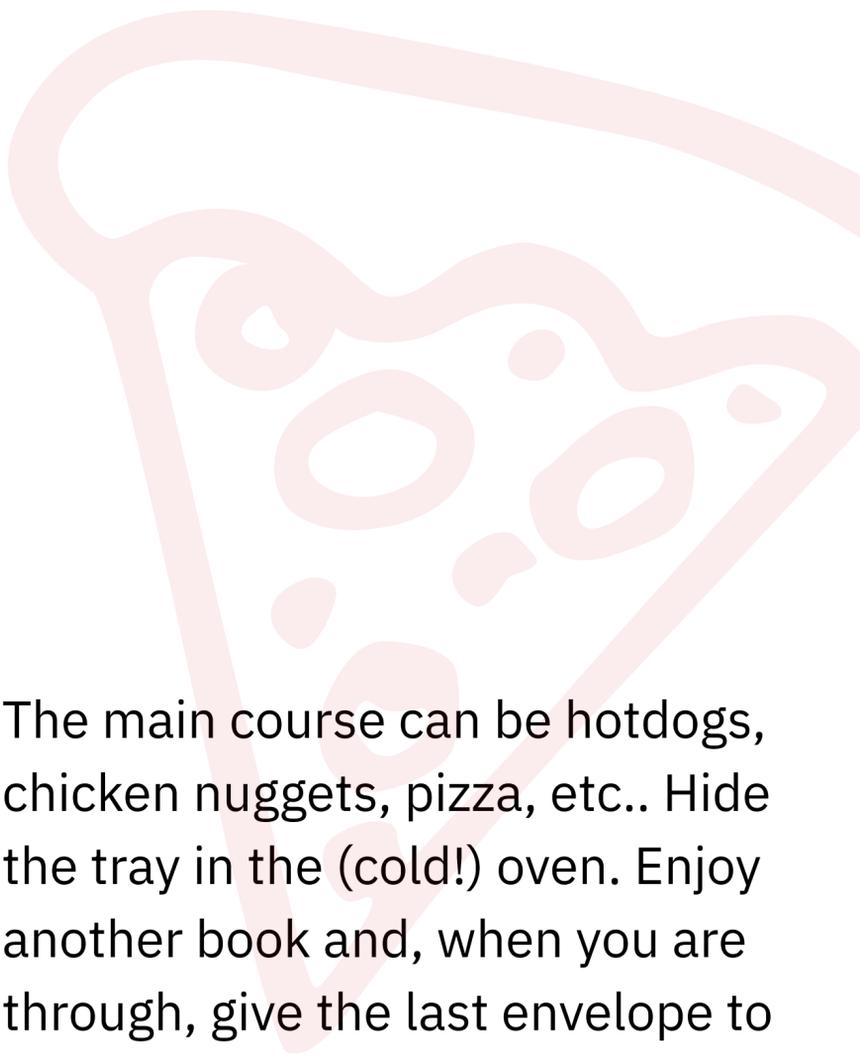
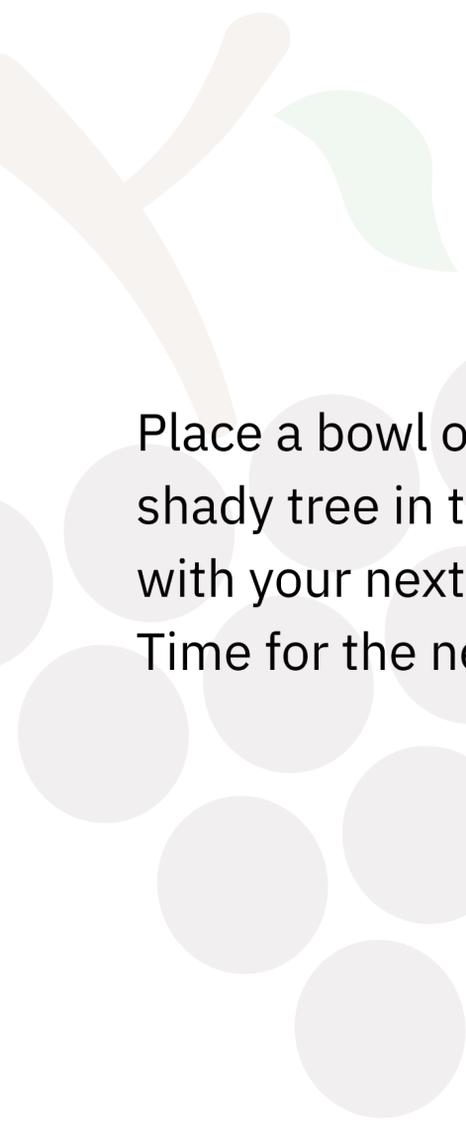
Place a bowl of grapes under a shady tree in the backyard along with your next read-aloud book. Time for the next clue.

The next course on which
we will dine
is sweet and it grows on a
vine.
Under a shady tree
Is where you will find me!

Fourth clue:

I hope you're still hungry.
There's more to be sought.
Look where Mom cooks,
But don't worry, it's not
hot.

The main course can be hotdogs, chicken nuggets, pizza, etc.. Hide the tray in the (cold!) oven. Enjoy another book and, when you are through, give the last envelope to the children to read.



Fifth clue:

The last clue will lead the children to the music room. Place a plate of cookies on the piano bench with the last book to read.

That was delicious,
But there is one thing
more.
For the last course,
Open the music room door.

After enjoying the cookies and book, ask one of the children to read the last message out loud.

Lunch is over. Lunch was
fun!
Clean up now must be
done.
Just ask what you can do
and always remember that
I LOVE YOU!

Clues could be written in code, or they could be earned by solving a math problem or finishing a short physical drill. Be creative! While you are building great memories you will also be inspiring creativity in your kids. Soon they will be wanting to make a Treasure Hunt Lunch for you!