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## How to Turn Your Kitchen into a Classroom

By [Jonathan Lewis](#) on September 12, 2014

Do you enjoy opportunities to bring learning opportunities into real life? Then here's an idea: bring the kids into the kitchen and let the learning begin!

Samantha Barnes, founder of [Raddish](#), shared ideas in the Sep/Oct issue of *Home School Enrichment* to turn your kitchen into a classroom. Here are some of her suggestions:

- Travel the world through food! Hang a map in your kitchen, and locate different countries as you prepare dishes from various cultures.
- The kitchen is filled with real-life opportunities to teach practical math. Even before you start cooking, head to the grocery store to practice addition, apply coupons, and compare value. Back in the kitchen, young chefs can count and sort ingredients ("How many green beans are in the bowl?") while older chefs master estimation ("Is one tablespoon bigger or smaller than two teaspoons?"), fractions ("Measure  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups flour using the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup measure"), and multiplication ("We need to triple this recipe—how many people will it serve?").
- Kids of all ages delight in the edible joy of chemistry in the kitchen. Properties change constantly—whether it's inedible raw meat sizzling to become a source of energy and sustenance, heavy cream whipping into soft pillows to top berries, or yeast dissolving in warm water, the first step to making quick and easy homemade pizza dough.
- Using food to discover other cultures might be one of the most authentic approaches to embracing differences. In a unit on Japan, my students discovered that eating miso soup for breakfast was as common in that country as eating cereal is in the United States. At first surprised, they soon tried the warm and flavorful broth, and they began requesting it to start their day too!

If you've never used the kitchen as a classroom, why not give it a try? You have to eat anyway, so make kitchen time serve double duty by bringing the kids in for some fun—and tasty—learning!