












Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Icon Key

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
|  Listen – instructions, song or story |  Reading activity or story |  Writing and fine motor activities |
|  Recall – act on what they have heard |  Speaking activity to build reading skills |  Speaking and listening |
|  Discuss – communicate about something they have heard, seen or learned |  Listening activity to build reading skills |  Close of session |

Lesson-Specific Guidance

- This planning was developed in partnership with World Nursery Rhyme week and is not a compulsory component of the Phonics Shed SSP programme. It is designed for use with Nursery or Reception, but can be adapted for Key Stage 1 classes if required.
- The lyrics for the focus song are taken from the Piccolo Music versions
- The focus of this session is linked to Phonics Shed Chapter 1, Element 7, From Left to Right and the Phonics Shed Active Listening Skills
- The 'Recap', 'Introduction', 'Whole Group' and 'Activity' sections are expected to take approximately 20 to 25 minutes in total. You may need to take a break between 'Activity' and 'Plenary' to allow the biscuits to cook and cool; they should take approximately 8 minutes for cooking and 12 for cooling. Alternatively, you could pre-make some biscuits, so that the children can move straight on to decorating and tasting. We suggest a maximum of five minutes decorating and an additional five minutes for the plenary. The whole lesson should take approximately 30 minutes, without factoring in a break.

Useful Vocabulary

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| aglow | countless | glowing | shooting |
| beaming | darkness | golden | silvery |
| beautiful | darting | luminous | sparkling |
| blueish | dazzling | night | starry |
| bright | distant | pointed | stars |
| brilliant | flashing | radiant | sun |
| cartwheeling | flickering | scattered | tiny |
| cluster | galaxy | shimmering | twinkling |
| constellation | gleaming | shine | white |
| cool | glistening | shining | yellow |

Suggested External Texts:

- **Can You See the Stars Tonight?** by Anna Terreros-Martin (2023) [ISBN: 978-1788452908]
- **Draw Me a Star** by Eric Carle (1995) [ISBN: 978-0140549270]
- **How To Catch A Star** by Oliver Jeffers (2024) [ISBN: 978-0007150342]
- **I Saw a Star** by JC (2023) [ISBN: 979-8372714267]
- **Our Stars** by Anne Rockwell (2002) [ISBN: 978-0152163600]
- **Star in the Jar** by Sam Hay (2021) [ISBN: 978-728250144]
- **Stardust** by Jeanne Willis (2017) [ISBN: 978-1788000680]
- **The Star of the Zoo** by Virginie Zurcher (2014) [ISBN: 978-1781716595]
- **The Way Back Home** by Oliver Jeffers (2017) [ISBN: 978-0007182329]
- **Children's Picture Atlas of the Stars** by Tom Kerss (2023) [ISBN: 978-0008621933]
- **Curious Kids: Stars and Space** by Christiane Engel (2021) [ISBN: 978-1838911812]
- **Little Kids First Big Book of Space** by Katherine Hughes for National Geographic (2012) [ISBN: 978-1426310140]
- **Usborne Stargazing Book** by Sam Smith (2024) [ISBN: 978-1803708683]

Useful Links

World Nursery Rhyme Week: www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com

Piccolo Music: push.fm/fl/twinkle-twinkle-little-star-piccolo-music



Suggestions for Other Classroom Areas

Mark Making

- Mark making with sticks or paint brushes in trays of glitter or star shaped sequins
- Mark making with fingers on reversible sequin fabrics

Reading

- See 'Suggested External Texts' on page 1
- shed.ly/LCZMKJZ

Numeracy

- Focus on star shapes, e.g., making star shapes with lolly sticks
- Using positional language to describe the positions of 'hidden' stars in the classroom

Sensory

- Using a zip lock bag, add clear/light blue hair gel or hand sanitiser and a selection of stars e.g., confetti, flat plastic that glow in the dark or glitters pompoms. Seal the bag and attach to black card using thick tape to avoid leaks.

Light and Dark

- **Star Gazing Station** – using a large cardboard box that the children can lay down in and 'watch the stars': for the stars you could poke battery operated fairy lights through holes in the top of the box or use glow in the dark stars. You may want to cover the entrance with dark fabric or a foil blanket to make the box darker.
- Explore projection torches in a dark tent: you can make your own by covering the ends of tubes with different shapes and shining a light through them.

Sand

- Add glitter and starfish to the sand tray

Water

- Colour the water dark blue
- Ice-cube stars
- Foam stars and nets for catching them
- Matching buckets to the colour of stars for colour sorting

Craft and Malleable

- Display star themed art inspiration, such as the *Starry Night* by Van Gogh
- Biscuit cutter stars for paint printing
- Using toothbrushes to flick white or yellow paint on to dark card
- **Star Dough** – blue, black and yellow play dough or salt dough with glitter

Music

- push.fm/fl/twinkle-twinkle-little-star-piccolo-music
- **Xylophone** – Learn how to play 'Twinkle, Twinkle' by matching the letters from **Resource 6** to the letters on a xylophone

Outdoor

- **Catch a Star** – draw the trails of a 'shooting stars' on the ground in different colours of chalk and the children follow them: they could have looped, gaps to jump across, dots to hop on, arrows to encourage a spin, trails could overlap/intersect, etc.

Role Play

- Space themed
- Use kaleidoscopes as pretend telescopes

Small Group/Circle Time




- Learn the makaton signs for 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star': www.youtube.com/watch?v=cs3swWH447c



Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Star Biscuits

Assessment Focus

-  To recall the order things appear in a text
-  To begin to understand that text carries meaning
-  To work from the left of a page to the right and top to bottom

Resources

- **Resources: 1-5**
- [‘Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star’ video from Piccolo Music](#)
- **Baking equipment:** large mixing bowl, bowls for each ingredient, whisk, wooden spoons, rolling pins (1 per child), star-shaped cutters, baking sheet lined with baking paper, scales (adult use only), oven preheated to 180°C (cook biscuits for 8 mins and cool for approximately 12 minutes)
- **Ingredients:** 200g softened, unsalted butter, 200g golden caster sugar, 1 large egg, 1 tsp of vanilla extract, 400g plain flour, plus extra for dusting (makes up to 20 biscuits, please measure ingredients into separate bowls before the lesson)
- **For decoration:** 150g icing sugar and approximately 15ml warm water (you may not need it all), you may wish to use yellow food colouring for the icing, a variety of star themed/sparkly sprinkles,
- **OPTIONAL:** pictures of ingredients and equipment

Recap

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star



Watch the video from Piccolo Music and encourage the children to sing along to ‘Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star’. Alternatively, you can use the lyric sheet on **Resource 1**.

Video Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=f18A4NGnxKY

Introduction

Recipe:

Setup: You will need to place all the things you need to make the biscuits (see **Resource 2**) around the area you are using for the activity. Try and keep them in ‘sensible’ places to make the activity as ‘real’ as possible, but they do need to be spread out so that the children have the opportunity to collect them.

“Today we are going to be making some twinkly star shaped biscuits by following a recipe.”

Show the children **Resource 2**. “This is a list of what we will need to make our special biscuits.”

Go through the list one item at a time and ask the children to find the item in the area. Ensure you are modelling that you are reading the words from the list by pointing to each item as you read it. You may wish to sound out the words to model oral segmenting and blending; please ensure you model using pure sounds (see the [Phonics Shed guidance videos on YouTube](#)). The children are **not** expected to read the words themselves.

Scaffolding: Some children may need additional visual prompts, you may wish to photograph the specific items you are using and display the pictures as you say each word/item.



Whole Group



Listen: Read steps one to five from **Resource 3** one step at a time and work together to create the dough.



Recall: Give each child some dough and read steps six to ten. Ask the children to independently follow the instructions.



Discuss: As the biscuits are cooking, talk about what they did: focus on the order they did things and see if they can recall the correct order for the recipe verbally.

Discuss what the next step may be (decorating).

Activity



Ordering: Using **Resource 4**, children put the steps of the recipe in order. You may wish to pre-cut the resource to save time and maintain the focus.

Simplify – adult or peer support required, reduce number of images if needed

Expect – mostly independent

Extend – add three future steps using **Resource 5** (there are three copies per sheet)

Plenary



Children decorate their biscuits. Allow them to choose from a variety of decorations. Discuss their choices and encourage use of star-related vocabulary (see list on page 1).



Taste the biscuits in class or send them home. Discuss what they tasted like; this may need to be done the following day if they are taking biscuits home.

Review the process and taste; ask the children to choose at least two positives and one area for improvement.



Praise the children for what they have done well in the session and address any misconceptions.

“Today we made star biscuits after listening to ‘Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star’. Our next Nursery Rhyme is ‘Old MacDonald Had a Farm’ and we will be pretending to be the animals from this rhyme.”

RESOURCES

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star – Star Biscuits



Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star



Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.

Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.



Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star Biscuits



Equipment

- mixing bowl
- wooden spoon
- rolling pin
- star cutter
- oven tray

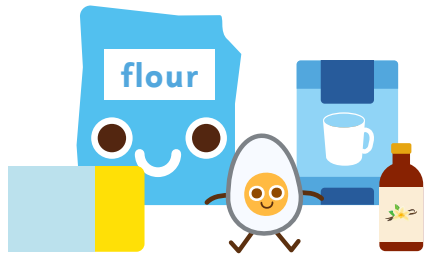
Ingredients

- butter
- sugar
- 1 egg
- vanilla
- flour

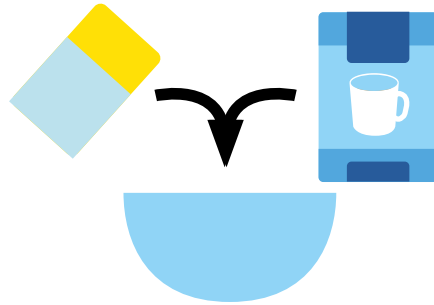
Mixing Up the Biscuit Dough



1. Add the butter and sugar to the big mixing bowl.
2. Mix them together with a wooden spoon until the sugar disappears.
3. Do the same to the egg and the vanilla.
4. Add the flour.
5. Mix carefully until it makes a dough.
6. Roll out your dough using a rolling pin.
7. Cut your dough into a star shape by pressing the cutter into the dough.
8. Pull away the dough from the outside of the cutter.
9. Carefully pick up your star and put it onto the baking tray.
10. Ask an adult to cook them in the oven.



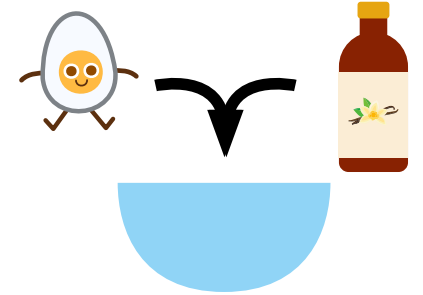
start



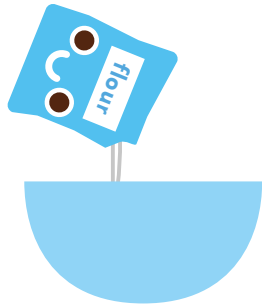
butter and sugar



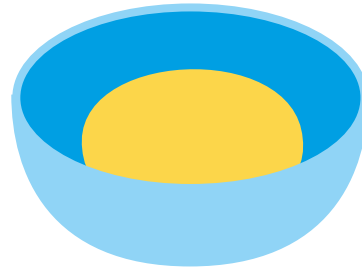
mix



egg and vanilla



flour



dough



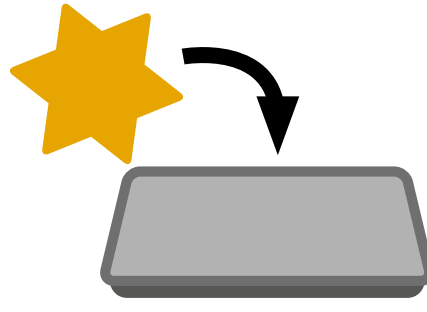
roll



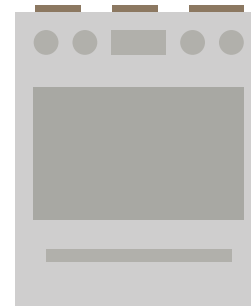
cut



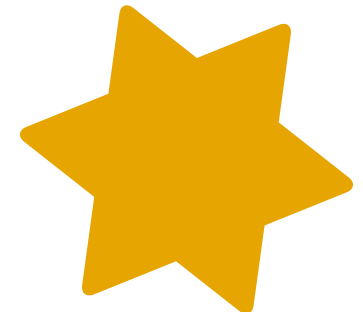
pull



tray



bake



biscuit

These are in the correct order; please cut out and shuffle, one copy per child.



These are in the correct order; please cut out and shuffle, one row per child (three copies per sheet)

Phonics Shed

C C

Twinkle

G G

twinkle

A A

little

G

star

F F

How

I

E E

wonder

D

what

D

you

C

are

G G F

Up

above

F

the

E

world

E

so

D

high

G G

Like

a

F F

diamond

E

in

E

the

D

sky

C C

Twinkle

G G

twinkle

A A

little

G

star

F F

How

I

E E

wonder

D

what

D

you

C

are

