How to Make a “Kitchen Memories” Family Storybook

Share a “kitchen memory” with your kids. Remember when your sister started a popcorn fire, or when your neighbor made his famous chicken dumplings? Create a storybook together celebrating that memory.

Make the Book: You will need a large sheet of paper,* paper for the cover, scissors, a hole punch, a big rubber band, writing and drawing tools, and a long, narrow object such as a stick of cinnamon, a chopstick, or a spoon.

1. Fold the sheet of paper in half horizontally.
   Cut on the fold to make two pieces (A and B).
2. Fold both pieces of paper in half.
3. Insert one inside the other.
4. Add a cover to your book using a “food-colored” or “food-inspired” piece of paper. Make the cover paper long enough so that you can fold the edges inside the first and last page, like a dust jacket on a hardback or library book.
5. Using the hole punch, make two holes on the folded side of your book and cover.
6. To bind your book, start from the back and push one end of the rubber band through the top hole.
7. Put one end of the cinnamon stick (or whatever object you are using) through the loop made by the rubber band end.
8. From the back of the book push the other end of the rubber band through the bottom hole. Pull it taut and put the bottom end of the stick through the bottom loop.

Write the Story: Use the inside pages to write and illustrate your story. Don’t forget to include a page “About the Authors.”

Share Your Story: Post pictures of your completed Kitchen Memory book on the Smithsonian Heritage Programming Facebook page.

* We recommend 12” x 17” or a similar size paper.