



**IMAGINE
KITCHEN
ACADEMY**

Kitchen Academy *Workshop*

Inspiring curious minds.
Building confident learners.



STEAM Studio



Fusion Inquiry
Framework



Reciprocity
Approach



Albedarian
Approach Australia (3a)



An initiative of Imagine Education Group



Let's brainstorm

How does exploring food benefit
children?



**Create a mindmap
in your group**

Let's brainstorm

How does cooking benefit children?



**Create a mindmap
in your group**



Let's *Share*

What are you ideas you have come up
with?



KITCHEN ACADEMY BENEFITS



..... Capability, confidence, focus and persistence

Core Foundational Goal 4 • Independent lifelong learners

1 Real-life capability and confidence

I can help for real.



Core Foundational Goal 3 • Building emotional intelligence

2 Executive function, self-regulation and persistence

Following steps, waiting, trying, finishing.



KITCHEN ACADEMY BENEFITS



..... Exploring food, culture and belonging



Core Foundational Goal 9 • Equity in learning

3

Openness to new cuisines, flavours and textures

Seeing, smelling, touching, tasting.



Core Foundational Goal 8 • Strengthening community bonds

4

Culture, identity, family and belonging

Food carries stories from home.



KITCHEN ACADEMY BENEFITS



..... Healthy habits, respect and sustainability

Core Foundational Goal 10 • Autonomy and decision-making

5 Healthy food literacy and nutrition mindset.

Food as nourishment, care, joy and balance.



Core Foundational Goal 2 • Connecting with the environment

6 Respect for food labour, sustainability and waste reduction

From growing to serving to composting.



KITCHEN ACADEMY BENEFITS

Language, teamwork and contribution.



Core Foundational Goal 6 · Language and communication skills

7

Language, literacy and communication

Recipes, words, stories and talk.



Tomato!



Tamatar
(Hindi)

Delicious!



8

Collaboration, responsibility and community contribution

Working together and caring for others.



KITCHEN ACADEMY BENEFITS



..... Creativity, problem-solving and STEAM thinking

Core Foundational Goal 7 • Curiosity and creativity

9 Creativity, adaptability and problem-solving

Trying ideas, adjusting and trying again.



Think



Choose a new idea



Notice & adjust



Solve & improve

Core Foundational Goal 5 • Play as learning

Goal 4 • Independent lifelong learners

10 Mathematical, scientific and STEAM thinking

Measuring, counting, observing and experimenting.





Introducing



SCIENCE



TECHNOLOGY



ENGINEERING



ARTS



MATHEMATICS

Let's put on the STEAM lens, what do children learn in each of these discipline in the Kitchen Academy?

**Create a mindmap
in your group**

Educator's takeaway card

IMAGINE KITCHEN ACADEMY

Nourishing curious minds through STEAM, inquiry and real life learning

Kitchen Academy brings together cooking, food exploration and authentic STEAM learning. Through meaningful hands-on experiences, children investigate, create, collaborate and discover while building real life skills, confidence and curiosity.



What children explore



Science

mixing, change, nutrition and sensory discovery



Technology

tools, utensils, recipes and safe processes



Engineering

planning, testing, building and problem solving



Arts

creativity, culture, presentation and self-expression



Mathematics

counting, measuring, patterns and quantity

Our approach



Fusion Inquiry Framework

learning grows from children's interests, questions and theories



Reciprocity

educators and children learn together through shared discovery



Abecedarian Approach Australia (3a)

rich language, games and meaningful interactions



Connection

food links children with family, culture, community and sustainability



More than cooking: a living laboratory for curiosity, connection and discovery.



KITCHEN ACADEMY

THE IMAGE OF THE CHILD



Children are viewed as
capable contributors who can:



Generate ideas



Solve problems



Make decisions



Collaborate
with others



Develop theories



Contribute meaningfully
to their learning
environment



Kitchen Academy values children as capable, confident and active contributors to learning.

KITCHEN ACADEMY

THE RECIPROCITY APPROACH



Kitchen Academy embraces reciprocal relationships where educators and children learn together.



Listen to children's ideas



Build upon children's questions



Co-construct investigations



Encourage shared problem solving



Support children's emerging theories



Learning becomes a collaborative journey rather than a teacher-directed activity.



At Kitchen Academy, we learn with children, not just teach them.

KITCHEN ACADEMY

INQUIRY AND PROJECT WORK



Cooking experiences often become pathways for deeper inquiry.

- ? Where does food come from?
- ? How do plants grow?
- ? Why does dough rise?
- ? How can we reduce food waste?
- ? What foods represent our families and cultures?



These inquiries can evolve into long-term projects documented through project journals, learning stories and visible learning displays.

KITCHEN ACADEMY

THE FOUR QUADRANTS OF ROTATIONAL EARNING



1 Language and Literacy



- Recipes
- Conversations
- Storytelling
- Vocabulary development
- Recording observations

2 Mark Making



- Recipe creation
- Drawing plans
- Recording predictions
- Designing menus

3 Construction and Investigation



- Measuring
- Mixing
- Building structures
- Experimenting with ingredients

4 Imaginative and Role Play



- Restaurants
- Cafés
- Community kitchens
- Cultural celebrations
- Family experiences



Kitchen Academy naturally connects to all four learning quadrants.

KITCHEN ACADEMY

THROUGH THE FUSION INQUIRY FRAMEWORK

1 The Image of the Child



Children are viewed as capable contributors who can:

- Generate ideas
- Solve problems
- Make decisions
- Collaborate with others
- Develop theories
- Contribute meaningfully

2 The Reciprocity Approach



Kitchen Academy embraces reciprocal relationships where educators and children learn together.

- Listen to children's ideas
- Build on children's questions
- Co-construct investigations
- Encourage shared problem solving
- Support children's emerging theories

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3 Inquiry and Project Work



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- Conversations
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- Vocabulary
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B Mark Making



- Recipe creation
- Drawing plans
- Recording predictions
- Designing menus

C Construction and Investigation



- Measuring
- Mixing
- Building structures
- Experimenting

D Imaginative and Role Play



- Restaurants
- Cafés
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- Cultural celebrations
- Family experiences



Kitchen Academy reflects all elements of the Fusion Inquiry Framework through capable learners, shared inquiry, collaborative relationships and meaningful project work.



Let's **Discuss**

How are our Mantras embedded in the
Kitchen Academy?





KITCHEN ACADEMY AND THE FOUR MANTRAS

IMAGINE
KITCHEN
ACADEMY



1 Enriched Caregiving

Educators use everyday moments to build relationships, language and learning through meaningful interactions.



2 Language Priority

Cooking provides rich opportunities for conversational language, new vocabulary, questioning, predicting and explaining.



3 Engagement Every Day

Children participate in hands-on experiences that promote active engagement and meaningful participation.

4 Connection With Every Child, Family and Educator

Food provides opportunities to celebrate family cultures, traditions and community connections while strengthening relationships.



Cooking. Connecting. Growing—Together.



Let's Discuss

How does Kitchen Academy strengthens
the key elements of 3a?



KITCHEN ACADEMY LEARNING GAMES



2 of 4

Abecedarian Approach Australia (3a)



Measuring games



Sorting ingredients



Sequencing activities



Vocabulary and
language games



Playful games strengthen thinking, language and problem solving.

KITCHEN ACADEMY ENRICHED CAREGIVING



3 of 4

..... Abecedarian Approach Australia (3a)



- Meaningful interactions during preparation and mealtimes



- Responsive conversations



- Shared experiences



Everyday care moments become rich opportunities for learning and connection.



KITCHEN ACADEMY

LANGUAGE PRIORITY

Abecedarian Approach Australia (3a)

4 of 4



- Intentional language development embedded throughout the experience

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What does it look like?
- What does it feel like?
- What do you think we should do next?

LANGUAGE GROWS HERE



Back-and-forth conversations



New words in meaningful contexts



Listening and turn-taking



Stronger language, stronger brains



These interactions support children's communication, thinking and social development while strengthening brain architecture during the early years.



KITCHEN ACADEMY CONVERSATIONAL READING



1 of 4

..... Abecedarian Approach Australia (3a)



- Exploring recipes



- Reading menus



- Investigating food-related books



Shared reading builds language, curiosity and connection.

KITCHEN ACADEMY AND THE ABECEDARIAN APPROACH AUSTRALIA (3a)



..... Kitchen Academy strengthens the key elements of 3a through:



1 Conversational Reading

- Exploring recipes
- Reading menus
- Investigating food-related books



2 Learning Games

- Measuring games
- Sorting ingredients
- Sequencing activities
- Vocabulary and language games



3 Enriched Caregiving

- Meaningful interactions during preparation and mealtimes
- Responsive conversations
- Shared experiences



4 Language Priority

- Intentional language development embedded throughout the experience



These interactions support children's communication, thinking and social development while strengthening brain architecture during the early years.



You're pouring carefully.

Helping Him Help Himself

Patience and planning can help you help the young child serve himself at meals. When you can, use small serving bowls he can handle. Put only a little juice in a small pitcher for him to pour. Be ready with lots of patience for the messiness that has to happen. You'll probably find he eats better when he has served himself.

Why?

To allow the child to increase his independence with choices about what he eats.

Nice serving.



LearningGames

Following Directions

Give some friendly directions that ask for two or more actions. Say something like, "Take the papers out of the box, and then you can use the box as your picnic table." Some of the directions can use things like paper, crayons, and books. These will help the child listen as she will need to do later in school. "Good listening! You did both things I asked you. You didn't forget anything." Praise such as this makes it clear why you are pleased.

Take the papers out of the box, and then you can use it as a picnic table.

Why?
To give the child practice in understanding and following directions.

LearningGames

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Let's *make the alignment* to the Frameworks



What learning outcomes do the Imagine Kitchen Academy support?



Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

- Children develop their emerging autonomy, interdependence, resilience and agency.
- Children develop knowledgeable, confident self-identities and a positive sense of self-worth.
- Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect.

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- Children develop a sense of connectedness to groups and communities and an understanding of their reciprocal rights and responsibilities as active and informed citizens.
- Children respond to diversity with respect.
- Children become aware of fairness.
- Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

- Children become strong in their social, emotional and mental wellbeing.
- Children become strong in their physical learning and wellbeing.
- Children are aware of and develop strategies to support their own mental and physical health and personal safety.

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

- Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity.
- Children develop a range of learning and thinking skills and processes such as problem-solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating.
- Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another.
- Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials.

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

- Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.
- Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts.
- Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media.
- Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work.
- Children use digital technologies and media to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking.



**IMAGINE
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Our Vision

Imagine Kitchen Academy is more than cooking.



It is a living laboratory where children investigate, create, collaborate and discover. Through authentic STEAM experiences embedded within the Fusion Inquiry Framework, children develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed to become confident learners, capable problem-solvers and active contributors to their world.

By combining inquiry, relationships, language-rich interactions and real-world experiences, Kitchen Academy helps children understand not only how food nourishes the body, but also how curiosity, connection and discovery nourish the mind.



This introduction can be found in the Kitchen Academy Handbook, and followed by:



1. Kitchen Academy Philosophy
2. Weekly Kitchen Academy Structure
3. STEAM Learning Outcomes by Age Group
4. Links to EYLF V2 and NQS
5. Role of the Additional Support Educator
6. Kitchen Academy Project Documentation
7. Family Engagement and Take-Home Experiences
8. Kitchen Academy Assessment and Reflection Tools.





LET'S GET
COOKING!



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