

Make Chocolate Chip Shape Cookies

The only thing better than a warm, chewy chocolate chip cookie that melts in your mouth? Two warm chocolate chip cookies in your favorite shape! Have fun with the kids by "shaping up" this traditional recipe, and teach kids about sorting and shapes while you're at it.

What You Need:

- 2 cups flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp baking soda
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp salt
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ sticks butter or margarine (softened)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup granulated sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 12-ounce package semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup walnuts (optional)
- Rolling pin
- Cookie cutters in assorted shapes, such as triangles, circles, squares, hearts, diamonds, ovals, and more



What You Do:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Measure out the flour, baking soda and salt. Mix together.
3. In a separate bowl, mix together the softened butter (or margarine), granulated sugar and brown sugar.
4. Add the egg and vanilla. Mix well.
5. Slowly add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and fold in.
6. Add chocolate chips.
7. Add walnuts (optional).
8. Mix until all ingredients are thoroughly combined.
9. Form a ball with the dough and refrigerate for 20 minutes.
10. Spread flour on a flat surface. Roll out the dough with a rolling pin until it forms a 9-12 inch circle.
11. Have your child cut out shapes with cookie cutters. If you don't have cookie cutters, have a parent use a knife to cut out the shapes. For a perfect circle, use the rim of a glass.
12. Bake 9-11 minutes. Let completely cool.
13. Lay a large piece of parchment, clean paper, or aluminum foil on the table. Mix up the cookies, so the shapes that match aren't beside each other.
14. Ask your child to sort the cookies with the same shape into piles. Sorting is one of the major math concepts of preschool and while this may seem easy, learning to put similar objects into sets is a key preschool concept, and one your child is likely working on in the classroom.

Now that she's put her cookies into sets, talk about the results. Was she able to sort all the shapes correctly, or did a difference in size, color, or other elements trick her? Talk to your preschooler about what makes the shapes the same, and what makes them different: for example, squares have four sides of the same length, whether they're big squares or small ones.

Use the cookies to make patterns-- circle square circle square (an AB pattern) or circle circle square square (an AABB pattern). Then be sure to reward your budding mathematician with a sweet treat!

