

THE PIE-MAKING PARTY: HOME LEARNING GUIDE

Thanksgiving Multiplication Adventure for K-5th Grade

This Month™ Math Miracles

CHOOSE YOUR GRADE LEVEL

This guide includes activities and support for all elementary grades. **Jump to your child's grade level:**

- **K-1st Grade** - Skip Counting & Early Multiplication
- **2nd-3rd Grade** - Multiplication Fluency
- **4th-5th Grade** - Multi-Digit & Decimal Multiplication

Have multiple children? Each can play at their own level in the same game!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED (All Grades)

- ✓ Computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet
- ✓ 15-45 minutes of focused learning time together (varies by grade)
- ✓ Paper and pencil for showing work
- ✓ Optional: Real kitchen ingredients, recipe cards, calculator

HOW THE GAME WORKS

The Pie-Making Party is an interactive math game where children help make Thanksgiving pies by calculating ingredient amounts.

Each grade level features:

- Different numbers of pies to make (3 pies for K-1, 4 pies for 2-3, 5 pies for 4-5)
- Age-appropriate ingredient amounts
- Visual supports showing equal groups
- Immediate feedback and celebration animations
- Optional challenge modes for advanced learners

Access the game at: <https://month.thence.us/pie-making-party-math-k-5th-thanksgiving-fun/>

Select your child's grade level from the buttons at the top of the game.

K-1ST GRADE: SKIP COUNTING & EARLY MULTIPLICATION

What Your Child Will Learn

- Skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s
- Understanding groups and early multiplication concepts
- Counting objects accurately
- Building confidence with numbers through play

Time Needed

15-35 minutes (flexible for home learning)

HOW TO PLAY TOGETHER

Getting Started (5 minutes)

Sit together and use household items (buttons, cereal pieces, coins). Make small groups and practice counting: "Let's count by 2s! Ready? 2, 4, 6, 8, 10!" Use your fingers, clap, or stomp to make it multisensory.

Introduce the Game (3 minutes)

Explain that the game will show pictures to help: "See? Each pie gets 2 butter sticks. Let's count them together!"

The game shows:

- Mixing bowls at the bottom (these fill up as you complete ingredients!)
- The ingredient you're working on (with its emoji picture)
- Visual groups showing how many of each ingredient goes in each pie

Play Together (10 minutes)

Read the problem aloud together. Count the items in each group, then try skip counting: "Can you count by 2s with me? Ready? 2... 4... 6! Great job!" Watch the animation together and celebrate when the bowl fills.

Tip: Start with **Practice Mode (Auto-Count)** for K-1st students. This mode automatically skip counts with visual support and is perfect for learning!

Independent Play (10 minutes)

- Sit beside your child and let them lead, offering hints when needed
- Ask: "How many ingredients are in each pie? How many pies are we making?"
- If they're stuck, count the first group together, then encourage them to continue
- Celebrate mistakes: "Oops! Let's try counting again. Want to use your fingers?"

Celebrate Success! (5 minutes)

After completing all ingredients, watch the victory animation together!

- "You made all those pies! Great skip counting!"

- "What was your favorite part?"
- "Next time we bake together, let's practice skip counting our ingredients!"

LEARNING CONVERSATION STARTERS

- "What ingredients do we need when we bake? Can you help me count them?"
- "If we're making cookies for 3 people and each person gets 2 cookies, how many do we need total?"
- "Let's skip count together while we set the table: 2, 4, 6, 8 forks!"

MAKING IT MULTISENSORY

- Count ingredients aloud with rhythm and movement (clap, stomp, tap)
- Use real objects when possible (count actual apples, measure real sugar)
- Draw pictures of the groups if your child is a visual learner
- Act it out: "You be Pie 1, I'll be Pie 2, and your stuffed animal is Pie 3!"

BUILDING REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

- Practice skip counting during daily routines: counting pairs of socks, counting by 5s with nickels
- Notice groups in your environment: wheels on cars, legs on chairs, windows on houses
- Involve your child in real meal prep: "We need 3 carrots for each person. How many do we need for our family?"

CELEBRATING EFFORT

Focus on the learning process, not just correct answers. Say things like:

- "I love how you counted each group carefully!"
- "You tried skip counting! That's a new strategy!"
- "Mistakes help our brains grow. Let's try again together!"

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME (K-1)

Try These Activities:

Recipe Card Math: Practice skip counting ingredients for multiple servings when you bake together

Dramatic Play: Set up a pretend bakery with play food, measuring cups, and "order forms"

Cooking Together: Make a simple no-bake recipe together, practicing measuring and counting (like Rice Krispies Treats)

Nature Walk Math: Collect fall items (acorns, leaves, pine cones) and practice grouping and skip counting

If Your Child Needs Extra Support:

- Use physical objects alongside the game (buttons, blocks, or drawn pictures)
- Practice skip counting chants before playing: "2, 4, 6, 8, 10!" with clapping or movement
- Focus on skip counting by 2s before introducing 5s or 10s
- Play multiple times - repetition builds confidence!

If Your Child Is Ready for More:

- Switch to "Challenge Mode" where they fill in answers independently
- Create word problems: "If we made 4 pies instead of 3, how many apples would we need?"
- Try counting backward: "We needed 10 teaspoons of sugar. If we use 5 for one pie, how many are left?"
- Try the 2nd-3rd grade level for an extra challenge!

WHY THIS MATTERS (K-1)

The counting skills your child is practicing help real bakers and cooks! When people make lots of food for Thanksgiving dinner, they use math to figure out how much they need. You're learning the same skills that grown-ups use in the kitchen!

Skip counting is a bridge to multiplication - one of the most important math skills your child will learn. By practicing in a fun, meaningful way (making Thanksgiving pies!), math becomes something exciting rather than stressful.

2ND-3RD GRADE: MULTIPLICATION FLUENCY

What Your Child Will Learn

- Solving multiplication problems using different strategies
- Understanding multiplication as "groups of"
- Applying math to real-world situations (recipe scaling)
- Building multiplication fact fluency ($\times 2$, $\times 3$, $\times 4$, $\times 5$, $\times 10$)
- Explaining their mathematical thinking

Time Needed

20-40 minutes (flexible for home learning)

HOW TO PLAY TOGETHER

Getting Started (5 minutes)

Use household items to demonstrate: "If we're making sandwiches for 4 people and each sandwich needs 2 slices of bread, how many slices do we need total? Let's count: 2, 4, 6, 8! That's 4 groups of 2, which we write as $4 \times 2 = 8$."

Introduce the Game (3 minutes)

Make it concrete: "Each pie is like a team, and each team needs the same supplies. We're figuring out how much we need for ALL the teams combined!"

The game shows:

- The number of pies being made (4 pies for this level)
- The multiplication equation (4 pies \times 3 apples = ?)
- Visual groups showing equal amounts per pie
- Mixing bowls that fill as ingredients are completed

Play Together (10 minutes)

Read the problem together and identify what you know: "4 pies, 3 apples each"

Ask your child: "How could we solve this? What strategy works best for you?"

Support their chosen method—whether they skip count, draw pictures, or use a multiplication fact

Write the equation together: " $4 \times 3 = 12$ "

Check the answer in the game and celebrate success!

Independent Practice (15 minutes)

- Sit nearby while your child works, available for help but encouraging independence
- If they're stuck, prompt with questions: "How many pies? How many ingredients per pie? What operation do we use for equal groups?"
- Encourage them to write equations on paper before entering answers digitally
- Celebrate multiple strategies: "I see you skip counted for that one and used repeated addition for this one. Great flexible thinking!"
- If they make a mistake: "The game says to try again. Let's look at the groups together. Can we recount?"

Celebrate & Extend (7 minutes)

- "You solved all those multiplication problems! I'm so proud of how you tackled the challenge!"
- "Which ingredient was hardest to calculate? Why?"
- "Can you think of times you've seen grown-ups multiply? (Shopping, cooking, sports scores)"
- "Want to try again on a harder level?"

LEARNING CONVERSATION STARTERS (2-3)

- "Let's plan Thanksgiving dinner together. If each person eats 2 rolls and we're having 8 guests, how many rolls should we make?"
- "This recipe serves 4, but we need to serve 12. What do we multiply by? How do we adjust the ingredients?"
- "Can you help me at the grocery store? If apples come in bags of 6 and we need 18, how many bags do we buy?"

MAKING IT CONCRETE (2-3)

- Use real recipe cards and highlight where multiplication is needed
- When grocery shopping, point out package quantities: "5 yogurts per pack, we need 3 packs, how many total?"
- During meal prep, let your child measure ingredients and calculate amounts
- Play estimation games: "About how many green beans do you think we need for 6 people?"

BUILDING REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS (2-3)

Daily routines: "We need to set the table for 5 people. Each person gets 3 utensils. How many total?"

Shopping: Practice with money: "If one box costs \$4 and we buy 3, how much do we spend?"

Sports: "Each team has 9 players. There are 4 teams. How many players total?"

Nature: "Each flower has 5 petals. You picked 7 flowers. How many petals altogether?"

CELEBRATING GROWTH (2-3)

Focus on mathematical thinking, not just correct answers:

- "I love how you drew a picture to represent the problem!"
- "You tried a different strategy that time. That's flexible thinking!"
- "Even though you got it wrong at first, you kept trying and figured it out. That's what mathematicians do!"
- "You explained your thinking so clearly. I understand exactly how you solved it!"

MANAGING FRUSTRATION (2-3)

If your child struggles:

- Break problems into smaller steps: "First, let's figure out what we're multiplying."
- Use physical objects: "Let's use these crackers to make groups."
- Try a different strategy: "Skip counting wasn't working? Let's try drawing a picture."
- Take a break: "Let's come back to this after a snack. Sometimes our brains need rest!"
- Celebrate effort: "Math can be challenging, and I'm proud of you for sticking with it!"

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME (2-3)

Try These Activities:

Recipe Scaling Project: Practice multiplying ingredients for different numbers of servings when you cook together

Classroom Bakery at Home: Set up a pretend bakery where your child takes "orders" and calculates ingredient needs

Real Cooking: Make a simple recipe together that requires measuring and multiplying

Graphing Activity: Create bar graphs comparing amounts of different ingredients needed

If Your Child Needs Extra Support:

- Use graph paper to draw arrays representing each problem
- Provide a multiplication chart as reference
- Focus on one strategy at a time (start with repeated addition, then move to skip counting)
- Use manipulatives alongside the game (counters, blocks) to model equal groups
- Play on the K-1st grade level first to build confidence

If Your Child Is Ready for More:

- Switch to 4th-5th grade level (5 pies) for more complexity
- Solve using multiple strategies and compare which is faster
- Create word problems for each ingredient
- Calculate inverse problems: "If we need 20 apples total and we're making 4 pies, how many apples per pie?"
- Introduce division as the inverse: "20 apples \div 4 pies = 5 apples per pie"

- Research real Thanksgiving recipes and scale them mathematically

WHY THIS MATTERS (2-3)

The multiplication skills you're practicing are exactly what chefs, bakers, and home cooks use every day. When restaurants prepare food for many people, or when we host a big family dinner, we multiply ingredients just like you're doing in this game. You're learning real skills that help people celebrate and take care of each other!

Multiplication is one of the most important math skills your child will use throughout their education and life. Understanding multiplication as "groups of" (not just memorizing facts) builds the foundation for algebra, fractions, and advanced problem-solving.

4TH-5TH GRADE: MULTI-DIGIT & DECIMAL MULTIPLICATION

What Your Child Will Learn

- Multiplying multi-digit whole numbers fluently
- Solving multi-step word problems
- Multiplying with decimals (tenths and hundredths)
- Scaling recipes mathematically
- Estimating to check if answers make sense
- Explaining mathematical thinking clearly

Time Needed

25-45 minutes (flexible for home learning)

HOW TO PLAY TOGETHER

Getting Started (5 minutes)

Find a simple family recipe and discuss: "This recipe serves 6, but we're having 12 people for Thanksgiving. How should we adjust it?"

Guide your child to identify: "We need twice as much, so we multiply everything by 2"

Practice with one ingredient: "The recipe calls for 2.5 cups of sugar. What's 2.5×2 ?"

Introduce the Game (5 minutes)

Make the connection: "This is exactly what professional bakers, caterers, and restaurant chefs do every day. They scale recipes based on how many customers they're serving."

Point out the challenge: "Some of these numbers have decimals. Have you learned to multiply with decimals? Let's tackle it together!"

The game shows:

- 5 pies total (the most complex level)

- 5 different ingredients with varying amounts
- Some ingredients use decimals (like 0.5 teaspoons cinnamon)
- Visual groups showing equal amounts per pie
- Requires accurate multiplication and precise answers

Play Together (10 minutes)

Read the problem aloud and identify the key information together

Ask your child: "What operation do we need? How can we set up the problem?"

Encourage them to estimate first: "About what should the answer be?"

Let them choose their solution method—standard algorithm, mental math, or written strategy

For decimal problems, review place value: "What does the 5 in 0.5 represent?" (5 tenths)

Check the answer together: "Does this make sense? Is it close to our estimate?"

Enter the answer in the game and celebrate success!

Independent Problem Solving (15 minutes)

- Stay nearby but encourage independence: "Try this one on your own first. I'm here if you get stuck."
- If they struggle: "Let's break it down. What's the first step?"
- Encourage showing work: "Can you write out your thinking so I can follow along?"
- Celebrate productive struggle: "I see you're working hard on this tricky one. That's how mathematicians build their brains!"
- For decimal problems, offer place value support: "Let's think about what each digit represents."
- Use the game as immediate feedback—if they get it wrong, work together to find the error: "Let's check your multiplication step by step."

Celebrate & Connect (10 minutes)

Celebrate:

- "You solved some really complex multiplication problems! I'm impressed by your perseverance."
- "Which problem was most challenging? How did you figure it out?"
- "Can you teach me the strategy you used? I might learn a new way!"

Real-World Extension:

- "Let's look at a real recipe together. Can you help me scale it for our Thanksgiving dinner?"
- "Next time we go grocery shopping, you're in charge of calculating costs if we buy multiples of items."
- "Want to try the even harder challenge? What if we made 10 pies?"

Reflection Questions:

- "Why do you think chefs, bakers, and restaurant owners need strong multiplication skills?"
- "How might you use these skills outside of cooking?"
- "What's one thing you learned today that you didn't know before?"

LEARNING CONVERSATION STARTERS (4-5)

- "I need your math expertise! This recipe serves 6, but 10 people are coming. How should we adjust it?"
- "Let's make a shopping list together. If we need 3.5 pounds of something and it costs \$2.50 per pound, what's our total?"
- "We have \$50 to spend on desserts. If we make these pies, how much will ingredients cost? Will we stay in budget?"
- "The turkey cooks 15 minutes per pound. Our turkey weighs 18 pounds. When should we start cooking if we want to eat at 3:00?"

MAKING IT AUTHENTIC (4-5)

Real Recipe Scaling: Choose a family recipe and scale it up or down together

Grocery Store Math: Give your child a budget and ingredient list; have them calculate costs

Meal Planning: Let your child plan one Thanksgiving side dish, calculate ingredients for your family size

Time Management: Create a cooking schedule—what time does each dish need to go in the oven?

BUILDING INDEPENDENCE WITH SUPPORT (4-5)

When Your Child Gets Stuck:

- "Let's break this into smaller steps. What do we know? What do we need to find out?"
- "Try estimating first. About what should the answer be?"
- "Can you draw a picture or model to represent this problem?"
- "What strategy have you used for similar problems?"

When Your Child Makes Mistakes:

- "Mistakes are learning opportunities! Let's figure out where the calculation went off track."
- "Let's check your work step by step. Can you explain your thinking to me?"
- "Does your answer make sense? How could we test it?"
- "Even professional chefs make mistakes with measurements sometimes. That's why they double-check!"

When Your Child Succeeds:

- "You solved that complex problem! What strategy worked best for you?"
- "I love how you showed your work so clearly. I can follow your thinking!"
- "That's exactly the kind of math that chefs and business owners do every day."
- "You caught your own mistake and fixed it. That's mathematical maturity!"

REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS BEYOND COOKING (4-5)

Shopping: Calculate discounts, compare unit prices, determine sales tax

Sports: Analyze statistics, calculate batting averages or shooting percentages

Travel: Calculate distance, time, and cost for trips; compare gas prices

Home Projects: Measure spaces, calculate materials needed, estimate costs

Allowance/Money Management: Budget, save, calculate interest or growth over time

Time Management: Calculate how long activities take, plan schedules

CELEBRATING MATHEMATICAL THINKING (4-5)

Display Math Work: Put your child's problem-solving on the refrigerator

Share Successes: Tell other family members: "Guess who helped me figure out how much food to buy for Thanksgiving?"

Make It a Conversation: At dinner, discuss how everyone used math that day

Acknowledge Growth: "Remember when decimals were tricky? Look how confident you are now!"

Focus on Process: "I'm so impressed by how carefully you worked through that problem, even when it was challenging."

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME (4-5)

Try These Activities:

Catering Company at Home:

- Choose a dessert, research the recipe, scale for different party sizes
- Calculate ingredient costs, determine pricing
- Create a "business plan" presentation

Real Recipe Scaling Challenge:

- Find a complex recipe with multiple ingredients and fractional amounts
- Scale it for your family size
- Actually make the recipe together
- Reflect: Did our calculations work in practice?

Thanksgiving Dinner Math Project:

- Plan a complete Thanksgiving dinner for a specific number of people
- Research recipes for multiple dishes
- Calculate all ingredient amounts needed
- Determine grocery costs using real prices
- Create a shopping list and budget analysis

Measurement Conversion Practice:

- Convert cups to ounces, teaspoons to tablespoons, etc.
- Understand why precision matters in baking

If Your Child Needs Extra Support:

- Begin with 2nd-3rd grade level (4 pies, no decimals) to build confidence
- Use graph paper to keep multi-digit multiplication organized

- Allow calculator use after showing work by hand
- Focus on whole number problems before introducing decimals
- Provide a multiplication chart as reference
- Break problems into smaller steps

If Your Child Is Ready for More:

- Create multi-step problems: "If we made 5 pies and each serves 8 people, how many total servings? If each serving has 3.5 ounces of apples, how many ounces total?"
- Introduce fraction multiplication: "Each pie needs $2\frac{3}{4}$ cups of pumpkin. How much for 5 pies?"
- Calculate unit costs: "Flour costs \$0.45 per cup. What's the total flour cost?"
- Work backward: "We bought 30 apples for pies. If we made 5 pies, how many apples per pie?"
- Compare different solution strategies: "Which method is most efficient?"
- Research real recipes, scale them, calculate costs and calories
- Optimization problems: "What's the maximum number of pies we can make with \$50?"

WHY THIS MATTERS (4-5)

The multiplication skills you're practicing help people in many careers—not just cooking! Engineers, architects, scientists, businesspeople, nurses, and so many others use these skills.

Math helps us take care of people we love. When we calculate ingredients, we're making sure everyone has enough to eat. That's an act of love and care!

Your education is preparing you for whatever future you choose. Whether you become a chef, a teacher, an engineer, or anything else, these problem-solving skills will serve you well.

ENCOURAGING GRATITUDE FOR LEARNING (4-5)

- "What are you thankful for about your education? What have you learned this year that you're proud of?"
- "How might you use your math skills to help others during the holidays?"
- "Learning is a gift. How does it feel to master something that was once challenging?"

ACCESS THE GAME

Play at: <https://month.thence.us/pie-making-party-math-k-5th-thanksgiving-fun/>

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[This Month™](#) - Connecting Learning to the Calendar