RESTAURANT: Create a pretend eating establishment

Age Range: 3-5

Skills/Subjects
- Creative Thinking & Problem Solving
- Appreciating & Understanding Diversity
- Dramatic Play & Creative Movement
- Language & Literacy
- Life Skills

Materials
- cardboard, markers, paper
- child-safe scissors and glue
- magazines or supermarket flyers
- restaurant props (see below)

Directions
Young children love to engage in pretend play of real-life occupations. Help children create their very own restaurant.

1. **Brainstorm:** Together, make a list of all the supplies you’ll need to run an efficient eating establishment.

2. **Set up:** Gather restaurant props (e.g., aprons, plastic spoons, forks, cups, plates, trays, play money, cash register, pots and pans, small pads of paper, pencils, tables, chairs, and placemats). Children can make menus by cutting food pictures out of magazines or supermarket flyers and gluing them on cardboard.

3. **Role-play:** Discuss what you might hear in a restaurant: May I take your order? This is delicious! Thank you! Come again! Take turns role-playing customers, wait staff (taking orders by writing or drawing), cooks, and cashiers.

**Talk About It**
Talk about the foods your family likes to eat, every day or on special occasions. How do those foods reflect your culture? What’s your favorite dish? Have children share their family’s food traditions.