

Restaurants Where Kids Can Cook!

At these DIY eateries, there's no whining—just fun dining. BY KARA WILLIAMS



PANCAKE FLIPPING

The griddles built into the tables at Slappy Cakes in Portland, Oregon, are sizzling hot, so Mom or Dad might need to take the lead in making breakfast. But older kids can squeeze dollops of buttermilk, vegan whole grain, or peanut butter batter out of bottles, and younger ones can drop in nuts, fruit, chocolate chips or crispy bacon. (4246 S.E. Belmont St., 503-477-4805)



PRETZEL TWISTING

Even preschoolers can shape a rope of dough, paint it with food dye and pile it with ingredients (like the popular chocolate-chip-and-graham-cracker combo) at Chicago's Café Twist. While it's baking, parents munch on sandwiches, like turkey and muenster on a sourdough asiago pretzel. (2218 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-281-3634) **Also check out:** Bavarian Inn Restaurant in Frankenmuth, Michigan (bavarianinn.com)



ICE CREAM CONCOCTING

You don't just add M&M'S to your ice cream at iCream in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood—you actually watch it freeze after being blasted with liquid nitrogen. Pick an ice cream (regular, light, soy, organic) or yogurt (low-fat, nonfat) base, choose your mix-ins, add some color, and watch as your custom frozen treat is made! (1537 N. Milwaukee Ave., 773-342-2834)



PIZZA MAKING

Every Sunday and Monday night, Rocky Mountain Flatbread Co. in Vancouver, BC, Canada, turns the kitchen over to kids for family pizza-making evenings. Apron-wearing 2- to 12-year-olds roll dough, spread sauce and add cheese and organic pepperoni. Parents can join in the fun or sit nearby with a glass of wine. Everyone wins! (1876 W. 1st Ave., 604-730-0321) **Also check out:** Brunelleschi's in Aspen, Colorado (zgpizza.com), and Coalhouse Pizza in Stamford, Connecticut (coalhousepizza.com)



SUSHI ROLLING

Families at Loews Miami Beach Hotel can attend free Saturday-afternoon SushiSKool at Sushi SoBe, where they learn to create the perfect roll. Afterward, you can all eat your creations—and practice newly learned chopstick tricks. (1601 Collins Ave., 305-604-1601)



TODDLERS: Monkey Preschool Lunchbox

Learn numbers, letters, colors and shapes as you help the monkey pack his lunchbox. \$.99

PRESCHOOLERS: More Pizza!

Build your own pie with a variety of toppings, then bake it just how you like it. \$.99

SCHOOL-AGE KIDS: Fruit Ninja

Swipe your finger to slash fruit in half with splashy sound effects. Using the iPad, up to eight fingers can attack at once! \$.99

TWEENS: Sky Burger

Stack burgers while ingredients fall from the sky. Don't mess up the order, or you'll lose your tips! Free

TEENS: Diner Dash

Help Flo turn tables and placate customers at six different restaurants. \$2.99



MOM'S DREAM RESTAURANT: A CHECKLIST

GOOD

Crayons at the table

High chairs for toddlers

Children's menu full of healthy entrées

BETTER

Touch-screen tabletops where kids play—and place meal orders—at The Cowfish in Charlotte, NC (thecowfish.com)

A toy-stocked, just-for-kids dining room on Sundays at EDGE Restaurant & Bar in Denver (edgerestaurantdenver.com)

Gluten-free kids' menu, featuring burgers (no buns), at Iron Hill Brewery (multiple locations, ironhillbrewery.com)