

PROVIDER NOTES

December 2008 / January 2009

Where do you shop?

Raley's


SAFEWAY

SPD
MARKET

BriarPatch
CO-OP *Natural Foods
Community Market*

SAVE MART
SUPERMARKETS

If you shop at any of these fine stores, you can easily support
SIERRA NEVADA CHILDREN'S SERVICES (SNCS)
every time you buy groceries . . . It's free and easy!

 **eScrip** is a program that rebates money back to SNCS each time you shop at a participating store. SNCS then reinvests this money into our community by helping local families in need . . . Over 1,200 families each year!

Please help contribute to families in need by using  **eScrip!**

For Raley's and SaveMart cards and pre-printed rebate coupons for SPD and BriarPatch, please visit us at:



Sierra Nevada Children's Services
256 Buena Vista Street, Suite 110
Grass Valley / 530-272-8866

Visit www.shopping.escrip.com for other local vendors and the Escrip shopping mall.

Provider Notes is a monthly newsletter designed to keep you informed on legislation, workshops and ideas that will assist you in your valuable work with children. This publication of Sierra Nevada Children's Services (SNCS) is targeted to the childcare professionals of Sierra and Nevada Counties.

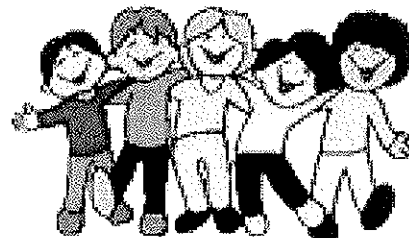
Sierra Nevada Children's Services Calendar of Events

December 2008

- 12/1 ESP 1st Quarter Reports due
Contact Beth Hardwick, 271-0268
- 12/3 GCAEYC Board Meeting at Kid's Stuff 6:30pm
Contact Carolyn Tate, 272-2513
- 12/3 Parent Leadership Council Mtg. 10-11:30am
- 12/3 Family Night at Cedar Park Apts. 6-8:00pm
- 12/3,10,14,17,21 Victorian Christmas in downtown
Nevada City 6-9:00pm
- 12/4 Coat Drive "Pick A Coat" 12-7:00pm at SNCS
- 12/5 Subsidy Attendance Sheets for November Due
- 12/5,12,19 Cornish Christmas in downtown
Grass Valley 6-9:00pm
- 12/10 GCAEYC Membership Meeting 6:30-8:00pm
Holiday Make and Take in the FRC at SNCS
- 12/13 Holiday Appreciation Breakfast at Trolley Junction
Restaurant 9-11:00am
- 12/13 CPR/First Aid in Auburn 8:30-5:00pm
- 12/13 Nevada County Food & Toy Run at the Eric Rood
Center - Leave at 12 noon 470-0697
- 12/14,21 Toy Drive
To donate toys for families in need drop off at
Wachovia Bank by K Mart
- 12/19 Play & Learn Meeting. This month at Gold
Country Gym 9-11:00am Call Ada at 272-866x221
- 12/21 First Day of Winter
- 12/25,26 Christmas Holiday - SNCS Closed
- 12/31 No Network Meeting this month

January 2009

- 1/1-2 Happy New Year 2009 - SNCS Closed
- 1/5 Subsidy Attendance Sheets for December Due
- 1/7 Parent Leadership Council Mtg. 10-11:30am
- 1/10 UC Davis Class "Scientific Inquiry for Young
Children" 9-2:30pm
- 1/14 Family Night at Cedar Park Apts. 6-8:00pm
- 1/15 Fingerprint Your Child Event @ SNCS
Time to be determined
Call Cindy @ 272-8866x203
- 1/21 Introduction to the Business of Family Child Care
12:30-2:30pm
- 1/22 Tax Workshop 6:30-8:30pm
- 1/23 Play & Learn Meeting 9-11:00am
Location to be announced, call Ada for more
Information at 272-8866 x221
- 1/28 Network Meeting 6:30-8:30pm
Topic is yet to be determined



SIERRA NEVADA CHILDREN'S SERVICES
CHILD DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM
 DECEMBER / JANUARY 2008 - 2009

To register for a class or for more information call (530) 272-8866 x 221

Friday, December 19, 2008 9:00am-11:00am	Gold Country Gymnastics, Grass Valley	Play and Learn	Play group for children 2-5 years of age and their caregivers (babysitters, grandparents, nannies etc) Come make new friends and join us for a morning full of fun physical activity at the Gold Country Gym. <u>Call the above number to register and get free admission!</u>
Wednesday, December 31, 2008	SNCS, Grass Valley	Network meeting cancelled	Have a Happy New Year!
Saturday, January 10, 2009 9:00am- 2:30 pm	SNCS, Grass Valley	UC Davis Extension Class <i>Scientific Inquiry for Young Children</i>	Explore everyday ways to enhance discovery and scientific learning in your programs Free science starter kits will be given to the first 10 participants to sign up and attend.
Wednesday, January 21, 2009 12:30pm -2:30 pm	SNCS, Grass Valley	Intro to the Business of Family Child Care	This class is designed for individuals who are in the process of obtaining their family child care license or for those who have recently been licensed. General business practices will be discussed such as contracts/policies record keeping and insurance. Free Family Child Care Guides will be given out.
Thursday, January 22, 2009 6:30 pm -8:30 pm	SNCS, Grass Valley	Tax Workshop	Catherine Clow/ E.A. from CAC Professional Services will provide tips and guidance for family child care providers filing their income taxes. The 2009 Tax workbook and Organizer published by Red Leaf press will be presented to the first 10 family child care providers to sign up and attend.
Friday, January 23, 2009 9:00 am - 11:00 am	SNCS, Grass Valley	Play and Learn	Play group for children 2-5 years of age and their caregivers (babysitters, grandparents, nannies etc). Location to be announced, call for more information.

Note: Trainings are open to the public. Registration is required, except for Network Providers attending Network meetings.



A Glance at SNCS Outlying Offices

Sierra County

Sierra Kids Child Care Center: Child Care in Sierra County is taking on new dimensions as we move into 2009. The new Sierra Kids Child Care Center (formerly Toddler Towers) is nearing completion and should be ready for occupancy upon approval of their license. The facility is a portable located on Loyalton Elementary school grounds with spacious outdoor space to allow for gardening and explorative outdoor features.

Downieville: Plans are moving forward to license and open a Sierra Kids; Downieville campus preschool, to be located in a classroom at Downieville Elementary School. In both instances, a projected date for opening has yet to be determined.

Family Day Care: Two individuals, one in Loyalton and one in Downieville, are in the process of becoming licensed.

Trainings: U.C. Davis series began on November 15, 2008. Topics to be covered are: Supporting Emergent Readers and Writers/Scientific Inquiry for Young Children/Building Numeracy Skills and Beyond. Additionally, a series of photography classes (Incorporating Photography in your Childcare Setting) and Music Together classes will occur.

Gymnastics: Classes are continuing this year for all children 0-5 enrolled in childcare. Classes are funded by First 5 Sierra.

Truckee

Holiday Season: The Truckee office has been busy getting ready for the upcoming holiday season. With holiday events and activities keeping us all busy we would like to take a moment to remind you about the ongoing U.C. Davis Excellence in Education Classes that take place at the Tahoe Forest Hospital Children's Center. Our *Introducing Language through Play* class on November 15th was a great success with over 20 individuals in attendance. Our next U.C. Davis class is, *Scientific Inquiry for Young Children* on December 6th. We expect another full class and encourage you to RSVP no later than December 4th. Other upcoming classes include, *Setting the Stage for Social Competence*, *Supporting Emergent Readers and Writers* and *The Business of Family Childcare*. Call our Truckee office for more information about each class.

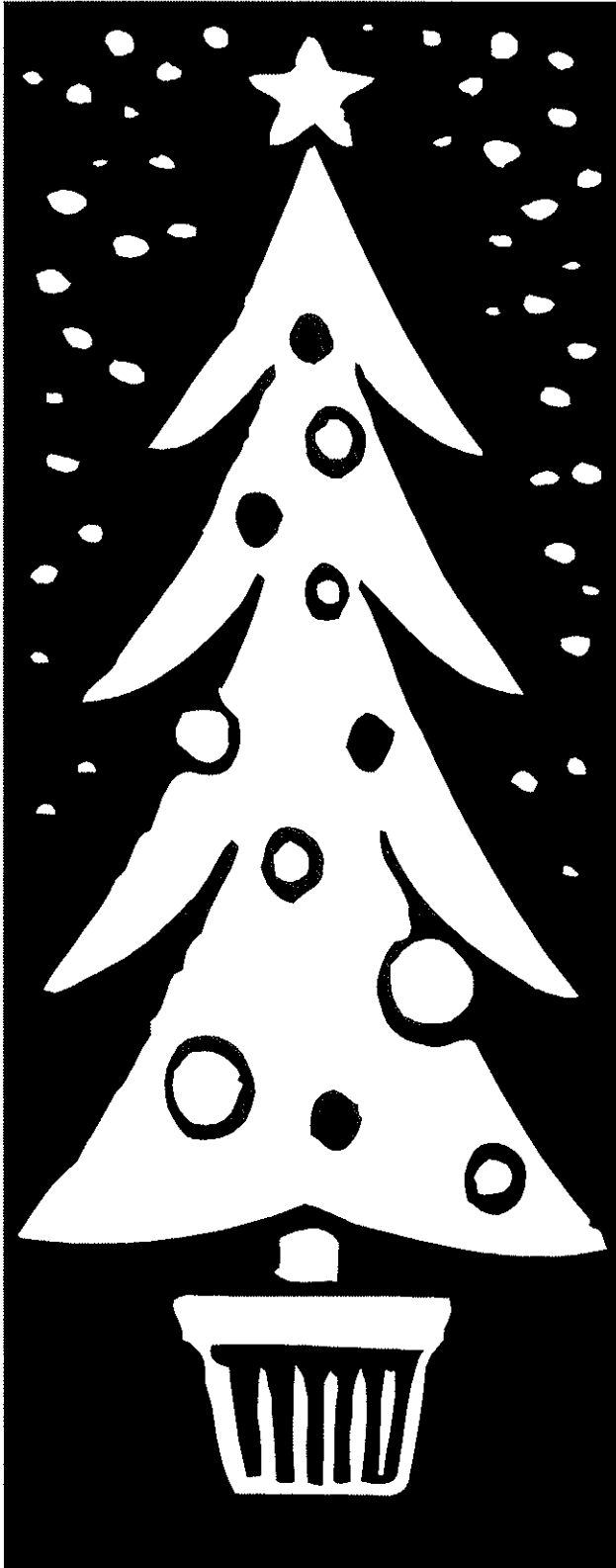
Provider Appreciation: We are honored to be celebrating all of our dedicated child care professionals on Saturday December 13th at Zano's Restaurant for a holiday celebration and luncheon. Invitations are already in the mail and we encourage all to attend. Call the Truckee office to RSVP.

Child Development Conference: It is almost time for this yearly event, set for Saturday May 2nd in Truckee! Ruth Hall is busy planning this event with her team of early educators. This year the conference team is bringing back Bev Boss, the director and owner of The Roseville Community Preschool. Bev will be presenting ideas, activities and her philosophy on working with young children. Don't miss this all day event!

NAEYC: It is time to sign up for the NAEYC conference in Reno, Nevada. If you sign up now you pay half the cost for the event. The National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference is set for April 3rd, 4th and 5th in Reno, Nevada, and will include over 100 workshops per day to choose from. To sign up and learn more go to www.naeyc.org/membership.

If you have any question about any of these events or if you have questions about other local events related to children and families please give our office a call at (530)587-5960. Don't forget to visit our SNCS Lending Library for seasonal books and activities for children. We look forward to hearing from you!

*Sierra Nevada Children's Services
Invites You to Attend Our Annual*



*Holiday
Appreciation
Breakfast*



*Saturday
December 13, 2008
9:00 AM—11:00 AM*

*Trolley Junction Restaurant
400 Railroad Ave.
Nevada City*

*Space is Limited
RSVP to Patty by
December 3rd
272-8866 ext.209*



SNCS Picks

A review of books, toys, and other resources at the SNCS Lending Library

By Sharon Thurman

This issue: **Holiday Children's Books**

Imani's Gift at Kwanzaa

By Denise Burden-Patmon
Illustrated by Floyd Cooper

"Grandma braided Imani's hair. Imani loved the braiding times. They were special times she and M'dear shared. They were times of talking and times of listening." On this day they were talking about Kwanzaa.



This is a sweet story, beautifully illustrated, about family, community, and sharing. It is also very helpful for anyone who wants to learn about Kwanzaa. It tells what happens during the week of Kwanzaa and includes a glossary of the Swahili words used in the celebration.

Merry Christmas Everywhere!

By Arlene Erlbach with Herb Erlbach
Illustrated by Sharon Lane Holm



"To Christians all over the world, December 25th is an important day. It's Christmas, the anniversary of Jesus Christ's birth. Christmas is observed by more than a billion people in more than 100 countries around the world."

"Not everyone celebrates Christmas the same way. In this book you will discover many Christmas traditions. You'll read about activities you can add to your own celebration. You can share these customs with your family and friends to honor the most widely celebrated holiday in the world."

Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins

By Eric Kimmel
Illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman



On the first night of Hanukkah, Hershel of Ostropol was walking down the road. He was tired and hungry, but he was looking forward to reaching the village where he knew there would be bright candles, merry songs, and platters piled high with tasty potato Latkes.

When he arrived, the village was silent and dark. Not a single Hanukkah candle could be seen. What could be wrong? The villagers told him that goblins had taken over the old synagogue on the hill. They hate Hanukkah and do not allow the villagers to celebrate it.

Hershel knew he must help the people, so he made a plan to get rid of the goblins and bring Hanukkah back to the village. Can he do it? You will have to read the book to find out.

A Treasury of Christmas Tales

Contributing writer Carolyn Quattrocki
Illustrated by Susan Spellamn

This beautifully bound and illustrated book contains



19 favorite Christmas classics, including: A Christmas Carol, The Little Match Girl, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, The Elves and the Shoemaker, The little Drummer Boy, The Littlest Angel, and Rudolph's Adventure. It is a perfect "story a day" book to get families into the holiday spirit.

Other holiday books available in the SNCS Library are:

Babar and Father Christmas By Jean De Brunhoff ▪ *Baboushka and the Three Kings* By Ruth Robbins
Latkes and Applesauce ~ A Hanukkah Story By Fran Manushkin ▪ *Off to Bethlehem!* By Dandi Daley Mackall
The Polar Express By Chris Van Allsburg ▪ *One Yellow Daffodil ~ A Hanukkah Story* By David A. Adler
The Christmas Dolls (a chapter book) By Carol Beach York ▪ *The Legend of the Candy Cane* By Lori Walburg
The Littlest Christmas Tree By Janie Jasin ▪ *D is for Dreidel ~ A Hanukkah Alphabet Book* By Tanya Lee Stone
Christmas Eve on Sesame Street Created by Jon Stone ▪ *A Snowman Named Just Bob* By Mark Kimball Moulton

TrustLine Basics

The TrustLine Basics is a quick reference guide to the A, B, C's, and 1, 2, 3's of TrustLine – California's background check for non-licensed child care providers.

What is TrustLine?

TrustLine is California's registry of non-licensed child care providers, tutors and in-home counselors who have passed a background screening. It was created by the California Legislature in 1987 and is a powerful resource for parents hiring a nanny or baby-sitter. All caregivers listed with TrustLine have been cleared through a fingerprint check of records at the California Department of Justice. This means they have no disqualifying criminal convictions or substantiated child abuse reports in California. TrustLine is administered by the California Department of Social Services and the non-profit Child Care Resource and Referral Network. It is endorsed by the California Academy of Pediatrics.

What does TrustLine check?

TrustLine is an effective tool for parents to check the backgrounds of a baby-sitter, nanny, tutors and in-home counselors to determine if an applicant has criminal convictions or substantiated child abuse reports in California. TrustLine is the only background check authorized by state law to use three databases that the general public, including private investigators and private background check companies, cannot access. These databases include the fingerprint records from the California Department of Justice's California Criminal History System; the Child Abuse Central Index of California; and fingerprint records of the FBI Criminal History System.

TrustLine has denied applicants with convictions such as murder, manslaughter, willful child cruelty, and kidnapping. Please visit www.trustline.org to see the types of crimes that **may** disqualify an applicant and a complete list of criminal convictions that automatically disqualify applicants.

How does TrustLine work?

TrustLine is easy to use for parents and providers. Applicants complete a one-page form, which requires submitting fingerprints and a one-time fee of approximately \$124.00, to the Department of Social Services. If applicants pass the background check they are listed on the TrustLine database. Parents just call 1-800-822-8490 to check on the status of an applicant or receive information on how to apply. Please visit [\[line.org\]\(http://line.org\) and click on **Providers: How to Register/Applications and Fees** for more information.](http://www.trust-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Why is TrustLine needed?

TrustLine is an important tool for parents choosing a nanny or baby-sitter. Thousands of applicants who have applied to be on the TrustLine registry have been disqualified because of past criminal activity. Parents can call 1-800-822-8490 to check if a provider is listed on TrustLine or to receive more information.

Is TrustLine effective?

TrustLine is an effective tool for parents to check the background of a baby-sitter or nanny. Thousands of applicants who apply to be on the TrustLine registry are disqualified because of criminal activity in their past. TrustLine has denied applicants with convictions such as murder, manslaughter, willful child cruelty, and kidnapping. But TrustLine is just one important tool to help you choose the best in-home caregiver for your child. Visit www.trustline.org and check out our **TrustLine Tips**.

Who is required to use TrustLine?

All employment agencies (nanny and baby-sitter placement agencies) are required by law to register their caregivers with TrustLine upon placement. Transport Escort Services also are required by law to register the individual(s) transporting or accompanying the minor with TrustLine. Transport Escort Services transport minors across state lines to residential facilities with permission from the minor's parents or legal guardian. Child care providers who are not required to be licensed in California (baby-sitters, nannies, etc.) and who are providing child care to parents receiving a governmental child care subsidy are required by law to register with TrustLine.

What makes TrustLine different from other background checks?

TrustLine is unique. It is the only background check authorized by state law to use three databases that the general public, including private investigators and private background check companies, cannot access. These databases include fingerprint records from the California Department of Justice Criminal History System; the Child Abuse Central Index of California; and fingerprint records of the FBI Criminal History System.

Reprinted from www.trustline.org/basics.htm

SNCS Odds & Ends

ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT PROVIDERS: ATTENDANCE SHEETS

Please remember the following when completing monthly attendance sheets:

- * Please do not use white out on attendance sheets. If you need to correct mistakes please cross out the errors or request a new attendance sheet.
- * Please make sure the parent/guardian is indicating reason for absence by writing the exact reason for absences on regularly scheduled days of care. It has been brought to our attention that some child care providers are writing "Best Interest Day" or other reasons for a child's absence on attendance sheets. It is the parent's responsibility to record absences.



VEHICLE DONATION

V-DAC is an innovative way to help Sierra Nevada Children's Services raise funds. Donate your unwanted vehicle and you may be eligible for a tax deduction. The vehicle does not need to be in working order, and will be picked up at no cost to you. To donate your vehicle please visit SNCS website at www.snccs.org, click on the "Giving" link, then click on "V-DAC Vehicle Donation Program" and follow the instructions.

Educator Support Program (ESP)

NOTES FROM ESP

Education Through Music (ETM): ETM promotes language development, listening skills, intellectual growth, literacy, physical coordination, sensory integration, social skills, effective self-concept, and more while it reduces impulsiveness, inattention, bullying, and aggression. It's a great program – and although not inexpensive, they offer a reduced price to early childhood educators. And don't forget – PAK scholarships can be used to pay for a training such as this.

Accreditation: Interested in professional accreditation from the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)? A group of Nevada County providers are, and they are planning to meet and work together in this sometimes long and grueling process. But it's worth it – and they have found a way to have fun and support each other in the process. Please contact Carolyn Tate at 272-2513. They will be meeting Monday evenings from 6:00-9:00pm beginning Monday, December 3rd and will continue meeting until the process is complete. For information about NAFCC, you can also visit their website at www.nafcc.org.

An urgent reminder from Sierra College: If you are interested in classes being offered at Sierra College – please enroll EARLY! Like so many things, classes and schedules are at the effect of budget cuts, and if a minimum number haven't enrolled, classes may be cancelled before you even go to enroll. Enrolling early can ensure the classes you are interested in will stay on the schedule!

Student behavior workshop: Nevada County SELPA will host a January 8, 2009, workshop for educators titled "Making Sense-ory Out of Behavior." The 8:30am-3:00pm training at NCSoS includes a continental breakfast and lunch. The fee is \$75. The registration deadline is December 5th. The presenter is Tara Delaney, an occupational therapist. Participants will learn about understanding student behavior and underlying drivers of behavior; strategies for challenging classroom situations, and considerations for sensory modulation. This workshop is for special and general education teachers, psychologists, and related service providers and any interested administrators. Check-in will take place at 8:00am. To pre-register, contact Randy McKean at 265-0611 ext. 203 or randy.cm@nevco.k12.ca.us.

CAEYC Annual Conference: March 26-28, 2009 in Sacramento, CA

About ESP: If you think you might like to take some classes, it might help to know about ESP. ESP pays a stipend (\$400 up to \$1,200) to providers for taking college classes and attending trainings in early childhood education. Although the program year has already begun, there are some program openings.

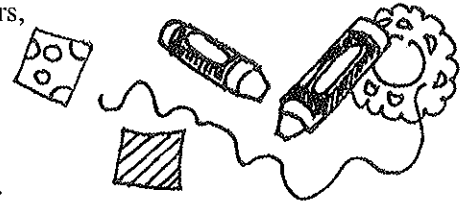
For more ESP information please contact: *Beth Bishop Hardwick at 271-0268*

RECIPE FOR ME

By doing this activity, children will begin to realize that although we all have many things in common, each of us is made up of different ingredients. This will help strengthen each child's self-concept and self-esteem.

What to Do:

1. Using the recipe below, make gingerbread people with children.
Talk about the ingredients and measurements used to make the gingerbread.
2. Talk with children about how all of us are made up of "ingredients." Make up a recipe for yourself.
For example, your recipe might include two cups of black hair, two brown eyes, one freckled nose and three teaspoons of giggles, a cup of energy, and so on.
3. Give each child a copy of the next page. Have crayons and/or markers, yarn, and other collage materials ready for children to use.
4. Ask each child, "If there was a recipe for you, what would be in it?"
Write her words next to the outline on her sheet.
5. Invite children to use collage materials and crayons or markers to add their "ingredients" to the gingerbread person outline on the sheet.

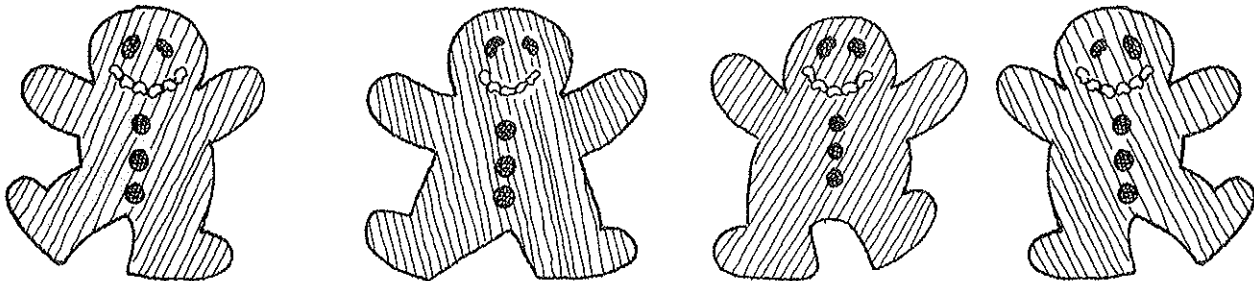


BIG BATCH OF GINGERBREAD COOKIES

You'll Need: 1/3 cup shortening ▲ 1 cup brown sugar ▲ 2/3 cup water ▲ 2-1/2 cups molasses
▲ 1/2 tsp. cinnamon ▲ 1/2 tsp. nutmeg ▲ 1/2 tsp. ginger ▲ 1 tsp. salt ▲ 2 tsp. baking soda ▲ 6 cups flour
▲ raisins ▲ nuts ▲ cookie cutter shaped as gingerbread person (if you wish) ▲ spoon ▲ 2 bowls ▲ cookie sheet ▲ measuring cup and spoon ▲ rolling pin

What to Do:

1. Let children help measure and combine the sugar, shortening, and molasses in one bowl.
2. Encourage them to help you mix all the dry ingredients together in another bowl and then add these to the wet ingredients in the first bowl. Mix well.
3. Help children roll out the dough to 1/8-inch thick. Let them cut out gingerbread people with the cookie cutter or shape them with their hands.
4. Invite children to decorate each "person" with raisins and nuts.
5. Bake at 350° F. for 15 minutes on a greased cookie sheet.



CACFP Credit=Bread/alternate for snack (Check with your Food Program for limit on sweets)