



Yesterday Jutta made 'Bretzeln' with the children. She reminded them of the St. Martin story again showing the children how he had shared his cape and that the idea behind Bretzeln is that they are to be shared, hence the shape where one side can be eaten by one person and the other side by someone they are sharing with. Jutta had the recipe written out for the children to read as they worked through the process and she encouraged them to tick the various steps. After washing their hands, the children were ready to join in.



When introducing the ingredients to the children Jutta sang 'Backe, backe Kuchen' and encouraged everyone to sing as well. 'Ich kenne das Lied', said Emily.

'Machst du das Mehl?' asked Carla noting the first ingredient to be poured into the bowl was flour.

Jutta asked the children.. 'Wieviel Mehl?' and everyone looked at the chart to count the number of cups. 'Drei', said Emily. 'Is that milk? I know that that is milk', said Sophie pointing to the milk bottle.



The yeast, however, was next and Carla carefully poured three level tablespoons of yeast over the flour. Lily now joined in and ticked off 'yeast' on the chart.



Emily helped to pour the sugar in and Catherine asked her to say the word in English. She noted that 'Zucker' and 'Sugar' sound similar. 'Kann ich auch Zucker machen?'. asked Lara.

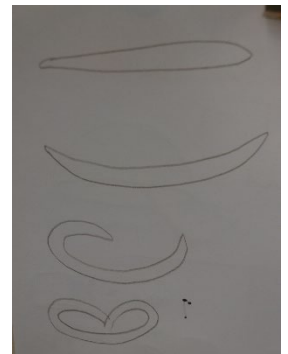
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As with all of the other ingredients, the children took turns to add them, noting that the butter was particularly hard to stir into the flour. 'Oh look at my hand', said Julia after trying to stir it in. 'Das geht schwer', said Emily. 'Jetzt kannst du feste rühren', she added to Julia.



As the dough needed time to rise, Jutta presented the children with some dough she had previously made and encouraged them to create the shape of the pretzels. 'Essen wir die?' asked Emily. 'Wir teilen die', replied Carla. The children then spoke about who they would share with. 'I'm sharing with you, Sienna', said Sophie.

Jutta sprinkled some flour onto the table. 'This is so we don't stick the dough to the table', said Julia. Michelle, who was visiting Jutta from her TAFE course, was very impressed that Julia knew what the sprinkled flour was for.



Many more children joined in with rolling the dough out (after washing hands) and Jutta explained that they should roll the dough into a long piece before created a 'smiley' by turning the sides upwards. She referred the children to the steps on the chart.



'What is it?' asked Luca. 'We're making pretzels', said Julia. 'Are you making pretzels!?' Luca asked before sitting down to join in.



'It's like playdough! Mine's sticking!', said Sophie. 'How is this?' asked Luca as he tried to make the shape by turning the sides inwards. 'When we get pretzels, they have salt on them', explained Luca. Jutta pointed out that these pretzels would be sweet. 'I'm just saying yours is yours and mine is mine', said Finn when discussing the concept of sharing a pretzel.

Creating the pretzels encouraged the children to cross the mid-line and Sophie discovered the shape was not unlike the 'S' in her name. 'I know this shape, I need help to write it', she said. 'I can't make the shape', said Lily. She was shown the shapes Jutta had displayed on the board, as well as the steps and she worked through the process.. 'There' she said as she joined the sides together. Lily then assisted Frieda with this process as well. 'You have to make the dough long first', she explained.



Once the pretzels were ready they went into the oven for half an hour. Julia proactively helped to clean up the area by sweeping and mopping the spills.



Julia's interest in drawing continued to show by her drawing more little pretzel shapes on to our recipe poster.

Lily and Sophie also sued the pretzel from the home corner, which Jutta had also displayed, to draw the shapes again themselves independently.



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After the pretzels came out of the oven, golden brown, we shared them like St. Martin shared his coat. We were lucky there even was a bit of plum jam for those children who wanted some on their pretzel piece.

Jutta sang the song again with the children before the pretzels were shared at lunch time. 'Those pretzels are yummy!', exclaimed Luca.

This activity related to EYLF LO 2 Children are connected to their world and contribute to it. To follow a recipe and steps of a sequence. LO 4 Children are confident and involved learners, developing a range of skills, processes and problem solving

They enjoyed the sensory tactile fine motor experience of kneading and shaping the elastic soft dough into yummy pretzels. The children also enjoyed sharing dialogue together, discussing and measuring amounts and referring to the story to discuss concepts of true sharing.

