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Cool Sweets and Treats to Eat: Easy Recipes for Kids to Cook

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Wagner, Lisa. *Cool Sweets & Treats to Eat: Easy Recipes for Kids to Cook*. ABDO Publishing, 2007. ISBN 9781599287263. \$22.78. 32 p.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational books;

Subject: Snack foods--Juvenile literature; Desserts--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Wagner's book represents the next step in cookbook evolution—where adult and previous children's cookbooks deal mainly in words and occasional illustrations or photos of finished dishes, here the reader finds a complete visual ingredient and tool glossary. The photos and layouts are bright, as is the text. There are symbols identifying tools and difficulty level, and each step is numbered (and some of the steps are pictured). There is also a breakdown of basic cookery terms, such as grating, mixing, and chopping, at the front of the book.

The cooking is very simple and straight-forward; the recipes are specifically for snack foods, none of which contain meat (though variations on the nacho recipe mention cooks can add taco meat). The ABDO links page listed under "Websites" does not appear to list this book nor does it have any cooking links, though it does have some listed for nutrition. Helpful parts of the book include an alphabetical index, a note to adult helpers at the beginning of the book, a table of contents, and the wonderful photographs of the cooking process, materials, tools, and foods. Some readers may find the layout a bit too bright and busy, but it mostly comes across as fun.