

Mom's little cookie cutters will love these!

Looking for some holiday helpers this season? Search no longer. Recruit your creative kids! Baking cookies with children during the holiday season is a tradition to look forward to year after year. Baking and decorating cookies can be a fun family event that's easy and enjoyable for kids of all ages, including big kids like Mom and Dad. It's never too soon or too late to begin a family tradition of holiday baking!

Set Up Cookie Kitchen

★ Clear a large work space - kids need a big area to spread out their materials.

★ Protect children's clothes with an apron or old T-shirt.

★ Keep a supply of paper towels and a sponge nearby to clean up any small disasters, and be sure to clean up spills on the floor as they happen so no one slips.

Add the Instructions

★ Choose recipes that children will enjoy making. For example, kids love rolling dough into balls, flattening ball-shaped cookies with the bottom of a glass that has been buttered and dipped in sugar or using cookie cutters to form fun holiday shapes.

★ Read through the recipe together before starting. Children can help gather the ingredients and utensils needed for the recipe.

★ Most doughs can be prepared ahead and kept refrigerated for two to three days or frozen. Dough is then ready for after-school or Saturday afternoon cookie-cutting sessions.

★ Make one drawer in the kitchen the children's drawer. Keep their utensils, e.g., cookie cutters, plastic measuring cup and measuring spoons, in a lower, easy-to-reach drawer or cabinet.

Stir in Safety

★ Supervise the children as they work in the kitchen.

★ Explain the importance of keeping wet hands away from appliances and electrical outlets.

★ Keep children away from dangerous appliances; parents should use the appliances.

★ Inform children about being careful not to touch hot surfaces such as the oven or stove top.

Design Dazzling Decorations

★ Encourage creativity and fun by providing colorful icings, sprinkles and candies for decorating cookies. Allow children to be as creative as they wish - there is no correct way to decorate a cookie.

★ Let kids cut out their own unusual shapes using a table knife. For example, children can cut out initials and bake a personalized cookie for each member of the family.

★ Use a wooden pick to put a small hole in Happy Holiday Cookies or Buttery Butterscotch Cut-Outs before baking. Then, after cookies are baked and cooled, have children decorate and string ribbons or thread through the cookies for festive holiday ornaments.

★ Decorate lunch bags using crayons or colored markers. Children can fill them with their homemade goodies for classmates and/or teachers.

★ Buy a plain cookie jar for kids to paint or stencil. It makes a special gift for grand-

ma and grandpa.

Clean Up With the Kids

★ Spread old newspapers on the floor under the kids' work

space for easy cleanup.

★ Develop good kitchen habits early - remind children to wash hands before, during

and after baking and have children pitch in with cleanup.

Use these tips and Mom and Dad's "little cookie cutters" will be baking up a storm in no time.

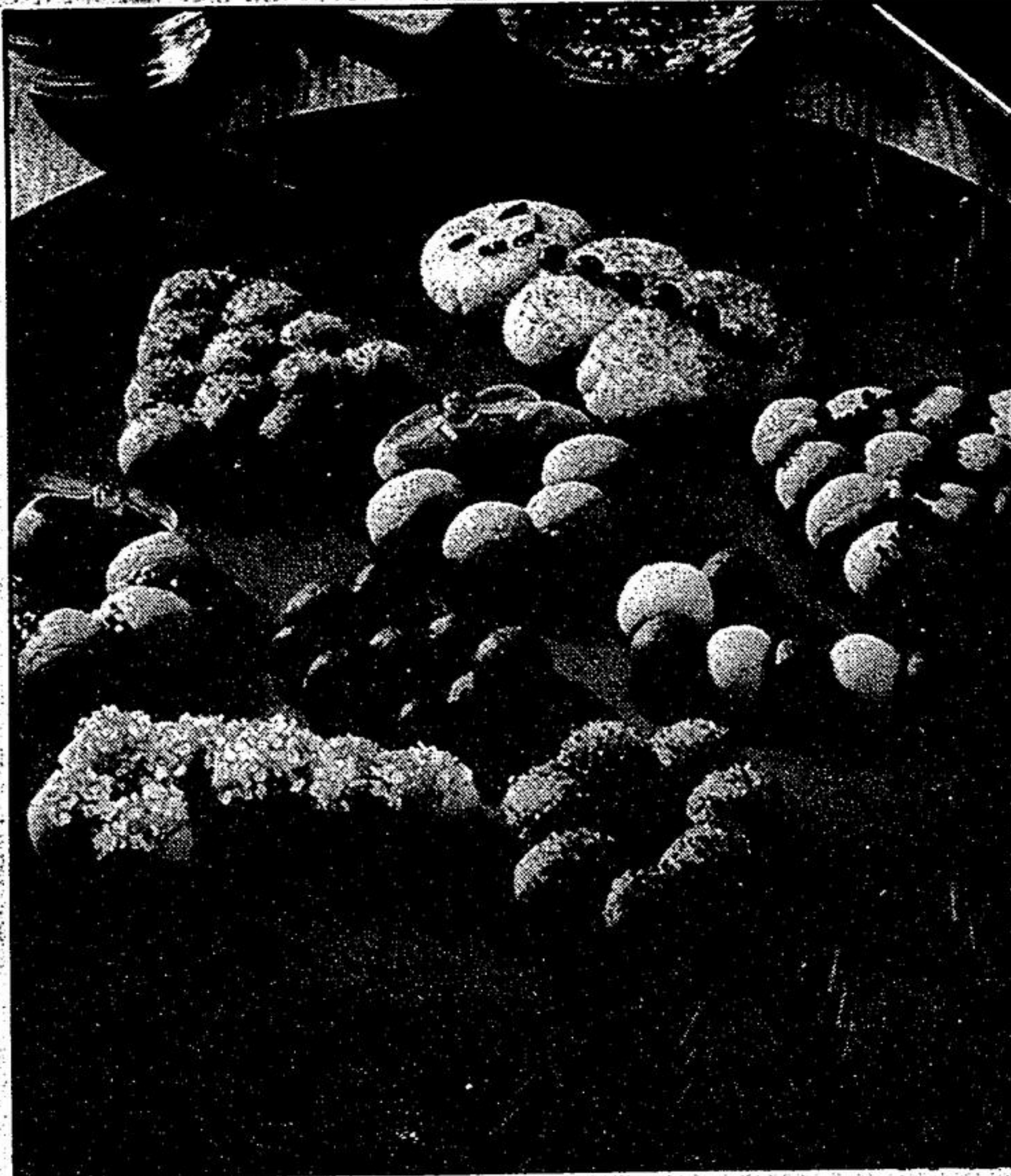
Happy Holiday Cookies

Kids will have fun rolling the dough into balls and shaping

their very own cookies.

- 1 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 egg
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder

(See page 18)



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