



CULINARY
INSTITUTE OF
CHILD NUTRITION

CULINARY QUICK BITES

KNIFE SKILLS: HOW TO CUT VEGGIE STICKS



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The University of Mississippi, School of Applied Sciences
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TRAINING OVERVIEW

The Culinary Quick Bites training series is a tool to help child nutrition professionals develop and refine their culinary skills. Each lesson is designed to last approximately fifteen minutes. Each lesson should be facilitated (led) by the person responsible for overseeing food production at a meal site, service area, or the district level.

Training facilitators should review the training, in its entirety, prior to conducting the training.

This training has been developed to address a variety of learning styles. The training includes an overview of the topic presented by the facilitator, an infographic to reinforce the training topic visually, a video to demonstrate the topic, and an activity to reinforce learning.

Please contact the Institute of Child Nutrition Help Desk at 1-800-321-3054 or helpdesk@theicn.org if you have any questions about how best to facilitate this training.

KEY AREA

Key Area: 2 – Operations

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

FOOD PRODUCTION – 2100

Employee will be able to effectively utilize food preparation principles, production records, kitchen equipment, and food crediting to prepare foods from standardized recipes, including those for special diets.

2130 – Develop culinary skills necessary for school meal preparation.

FACILITATOR'S NOTES

This training counts for 15 minutes of training credit under USDA Professional Standards learning objective 2130 – Develop culinary skills necessary for school meal preparation.

The activity at the end of the lesson involves cutting carrots batonnet style. This activity helps reinforce knowledge and skills learned during this lesson. The carrots prepared during this lesson may be included in the next day's menu production.

Before the training, prepare for the lesson activity and set up the kitchen workstation as described on page 11.

Deliver the lesson/training to participants:

- Read the lesson overview to the participants.
- Discuss the infographic and how it relates to the training topic.
- View the instruction video with participants.
- Answer any questions participants may have on the lesson, infographic, and video.

Complete the activity as instructed on page 11.

MATERIALS NEEDED



- Anti-slip mat – 1 per person
 - Cutting board – 1 per person
 - Chef knife – 1 per person
 - Vegetable peeler – 1 per person
 - Washed carrot – at least 1 per person
 - Waste pan – as needed
 - Food pan – as needed
 - Infographic: How to Cut Veggie Sticks – 1 per person
 - Access to a screen to show the training video. Possible options include:
 - Site computer monitor with sound
 - Projector with sound
 - Tablets and smartphones
- A QR code has been provided for quick access to the video on handheld devices.

LESSON OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE:

At the end of this lesson, participants will be able to demonstrate how to perform the batonnet cut to make veggie sticks.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT VEGGIE STICKS AND BATONNET CUT

- Batonnet is a French vegetable cut where you cut food (like round vegetables and fruit) into long, stick pieces.
- Similar to the julienne cut, food is cut into long strips. The technical measurement of the strips is $\frac{1}{4}$ " by $\frac{1}{4}$ " by 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "-3" long.
- Thin uniform cuts ensure a quick and even rate of cooking or marinating as well as ease of dipping.
- A chef knife is the most popular knife to use for cutting veggie sticks.

STEPS OF A BATONNET CUT

1. **Peel the vegetable**, if necessary, and cut it crosswise into 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "-3" lengths.
 - TIP: If the vegetable is round, cut a thin slice off one side to make a stable base.
2. **Thinly slice lengthwise** with a chef knife into uniform $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick slabs.
3. **Stack a few slabs** at a time and cut lengthwise with the chef knife into $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick strips (the same width as the slabs).

HOW TO BATONNET

- Utilizing the infographic, review the process for the batonnet technique of cutting.
- Review the embedded training video.

After we review the infographic and video, there will be an activity to reinforce skills learned.

Culinary Quick Bites KNIFE SKILLS

HOW TO CUT VEGGIE STICKS



1

Peel the vegetable, if necessary, and cut it crosswise into 2-1/2- to 3-inch lengths.



TIP: If the vegetable is round, cut a thin slice off one side to make a stable base.



2

Thinly slice lengthwise with a chef knife into uniform 1/4 -inch-thick planks.



3

Stack a few planks at a time and cut lengthwise with the chef knife into 1/4 -inch-thick strips (the same width as the planks).

CULINARY QUICK BITES

Knife Skills: How to Cut Veggie Sticks

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

<https://vimeo.com/695264131/eac8ff61d5>

QR CODE

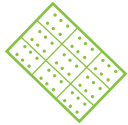
Utilize the QR code embedded to the right to share the video with staff utilizing handheld devices such as smartphones and tablets. Use the photo app on the smart device to scan the code to be directed to the video.



ACTIVITY

SETUP

MATERIALS:



Anti-slip mat
– 1 per person



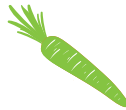
Vegetable peeler
– 1 per person



Food pan
– as needed



Cutting board
– 1 per person



Washed carrot
– at least 1 per person



Infographic: How
to Cut Veggie
Sticks
– 1 per person



Chef knife
– 1 per person



Waste pan
– as needed

NOTE: If your site does not have enough materials for all participants to complete the activity simultaneously, divide participants into groups based on your materials. Allow enough time for each participant to complete the activity.

SETUP INSTRUCTIONS FOR FACILITATOR

- 1** Prior to the training, gather all of the materials needed for the activity. Pre-wash the carrots that will be used for the training. Set up a workstation for each participant with an anti-slip mat, cutting board, chef knife, vegetable peeler, and a carrot.
- 2** During the activity, remember to monitor and observe staff as they practice their culinary skills.

ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

- 1** Refer the participants to the infographic. Then read the instructions for the activity. Ask the participants if there are any questions before beginning the activity.
- 2** Instruct all participants to wash their hands and put on single-use gloves before starting the activity.
- 3** Each participant will cut a carrot into veggie sticks.
 - Instruct participants to take their time and practice their cuts carefully.
 - Discard waste.

POST ACTIVITY

- After completing the hands-on activity, recap the lesson with the participants. Offer an opportunity for participants to share their learning experience during the training and highlight any tips or takeaways they want to share with the group.
- If time allows, facilitate a discussion with the participants. Suggested discussion topics include:
 - Ask participants to discuss the types of vegetables that can be used to make veggie sticks.
 - Ask participants to give some thought as to how they think the students would like to see veggie sticks incorporated on the menu.
- Ask if the participants feel more comfortable cutting veggie sticks or want more time to develop the skill further if time allows.
- Plan the next training session based on the needs of your staff.



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