**AUTHOR:**

Delia Ruiz

**ILLUSTRATOR:**

Nomar Perez

*Moon Chef* follows a young girl named Gaby as she observes the changing phases of the moon and compares them to the delicious foods she and her family cook together.

**Ages:** 2 to 6 years**ATOS Reading Level:**

n/a

**Lexile:** n/a**ISBN:** 9781623546700**Copyright:** 2026

# Moon Chef

**Have you ever looked up at the moon and thought it looked like something tasty?**

**What is STEAM?** Learning through Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics. Through STEAM, children problem solve, innovate, create, and collaborate.

**STEAM Topics in This Book:** phases of the moon, shapes

**Activities To Do Together:** From *Moon Chef*, you can learn how the moon looks different in the sky over time (phases of the moon) and how these corresponding visible shapes can be observed in everyday life. The moon's phases occur in a predictable pattern. Recognizing shapes and patterns builds spatial awareness and early geometry skills in a fun, relatable way. Exploring the moon's phases helps children develop observation and comparison skills.

Before reading the book:

- The moon is a sphere, but it doesn't look like one, and we never see all of the moon. Go outside and look for the moon together. Is it visible in the sky? If so, ask:
  - What shape does the moon look like now?
  - Does it remind you of any food?
- Find foods that look like circles, spheres, and crescents.

While reading the book:

- Look at the shapes you see throughout the book. What are the names of the shapes and what makes each of them special?
- Discuss together if you've ever seen the moon look like it does on the pages of the book.
- Make a list or drawing of moon-food comparisons from the story.

When you have finished reading the book:

- Look for the moon in the sky. If you can see it, draw and describe it.
- Choose one dish from the book (like tostones or tacos) and make it together. Talk about which moon phase it looks like.



**Conversations During Daily Routines with Toddlers:**

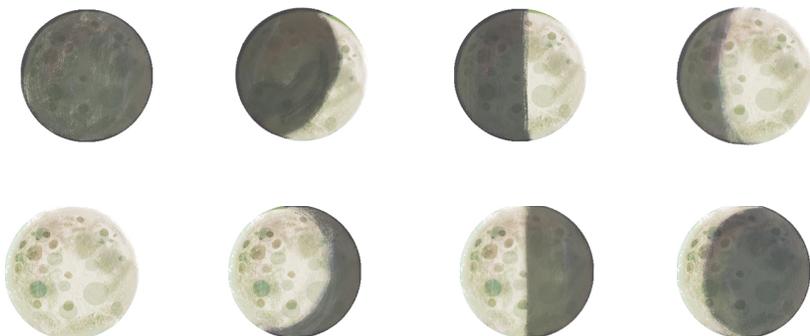
1. Outside time - Observe and describe the moon with your child. You might say, "That shape is called a crescent. It looks like a banana. Sometimes the moon looks round like a cookie, and other times it can't be seen."
2. Bath time - Look at the items in and around the bathtub (square tiles, round drains). What shapes can you explore together?
3. Snack time - Encourage your child to prepare snacks with you. Notice the shapes of the food in your snack. Crackers can be circles or rectangles. Oranges are spheres.

**Questions for STEAM Thinking:**

1. What do you notice about the moon throughout the story illustrations?
2. What shapes do you notice in the foods Gaby and her family prepare?
3. How are a circle and a sphere similar and different?
4. What foods remind you of the different moon phases?
5. Have you ever noticed the moon in the sky during the day? What did it look like?

**Early Math Project Resources:**

Visit [Moon Chef](https://countplayexplore.org/book/moon-chef) (countplayexplore.org/book/moon-chef) to find activities and related California Learning Foundations, Mathematics Standards, and/or Next Generation Science Standards for this book.



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**Vocabulary**

**STEAM words found in the story:** circle, crescent, gibbous, moon, phases, shape, sphere, waning, waxing

**Related STEAM words:** compare, observe

**Words to build reading**

**comprehension:** chef, night, rellenos de papa, soursop, tostones

**Spanish Title:**

*Chef luna / Moon Chef*  
(Bilingual Spanish / English edition)

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**Related Books:** *Circle, Sphere!* by Grace Lin; *Night Blooming Jasmine* by Diane de Anda; *The Shape Song Swingalong* by SteveSongs; *Cook It!* by Georgie Birkett

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