



MASTERCHEF CHALLENGE AT TLC

“And the TLC MasterChef Title 2016-2017 goes to...”



It was a week of fun, excitement and gastronomical delight as TLC set about planning and organising its first ever 'TLC MasterChef Father-Child cook off...' At TLC we recognise the importance of a father's involvement all through his child's formative years.

Our 'UOI' for the month was Fruit and Vegetables and what better way to celebrate the wonders of 'a healthy body and a healthy mind', than have our fathers' whip up a storm in our kitchen!

The idea was to have our super dads take over the reins and prove their mettle in what is considered predominantly a mum's domain at home - and rise to the occasion they did...

A mystery box, an open pantry and ingredients that if used correctly could create wonders on the plate, and a riot on the palate, opened up a world of opportunities in the TLC MasterChef kitchen. Children, accompanied by their fathers, selected the ingredients of their choice and set about their task in an organised and well planned manner.

The MasterChef clock waits for no kitchen-hand and time kept ticking away; however this had no impact on our super dads and their super sous-chefs - our children.

They pottered around the pantry, the sounds of knives busy on the chopping boards and the clang of spoons to utensils was all that reverberated through the TLC MasterChef kitchen.

The furrowed foreheads, palpable excitement that left just a thin line of beaded sweat on every brow in the room, including the mums, did not in any way deter the participants.

Aromas of every kind pervaded our kitchen and fantasies were recreated on a plate...A few spiced it up, the others left it sweet, umami made its way on the plates.

With creativity on their fingertips and imagination under their hats, all expressed beautifully on a plate, the countdown to the finale began.

Ten...Nine...Eight...and...hands up...utensils down.. Smiles and cheers lit the room. There were high fives and a deafening applause for our super chefs had created a picnic on their plates.

The cheering continued even as a professional chef sampled each plate meticulously, scoring each contestant on inventiveness, taste, presentation and child participation.

“ And the winner is.....” The first ever MasterChef competition at TLC came to an end to a huge round of applause. The verdict: You win some, you lose some...may the spirit live on...

And that, dear friends, was the end of a day full of fun, cheer, sweat but no tears, in our kitchen.

As **Julia Child** said, "The only real stumbling block is fear of failure. In cooking you've got to have a what-the-hell attitude".

