

Magic Elf Mix



3 Reading Levels: PS-1, 1-3, 4-6
Individual Recipe and Posters



Magic Elf Mix



I like to have students learn how to read and follow directions by actually doing just that! Recipes and craft activities are my favorite subjects for the task since they are so prevalent on standardized tests. I've found the children learn quickly and understand the task much more deeply when they actually compete it, rather than simply answer questions about the text. Discussion about the process makes more sense with experience behind it. This is one of my favorite recipes to use for that purpose. I've always done it in small groups at a center, under my direction, or that of an aide or volunteer.

This version of Magic Elf Treats makes a lovely gift for parents, siblings, school employees, and classroom volunteers, and you can also set it out for Santa's elves on Christmas Eve. **This is an individual sized recipe, so each student will make his own batch.** The last time I made it with a class, it cost about \$20 for materials, but the price of food has risen significantly since then, so it's probably more than that now. Purchasing large bags of generic versions of the cereal will help keep the cost down (1 bag of each). Of course, you can always have students bring the ingredients, if your school allows that.

Included Materials: 3 versions of the recipe are included in 2 formats (for individual use and a poster for whole class instruction).

- **Preschool-First Grade:** Only individual recipes are provided (pages 4-5). Read, model, act out, and discuss the recipe together. This is a great opportunity for developing print awareness. Give each child their own copy of the recipe and have them "read" and follow the directions at a center with a classroom volunteer.
- **Primary (grades 1-3):** Individual recipes, and a whole class poster (pages 6-8) are provided. You can have the whole class make their own recipe at the same time, or set it up as a center. **Be advised, a microwave must be used, so a classroom volunteer is needed for that purpose.** Read the poster together, and act out making the recipe. Then give each student a copy of the recipe, or let them rotate through a center in small groups to complete the activity.
- **Elementary (grades 3-6):** Individual recipes, and a whole class poster are provided (pages 9-11). You can have the whole class make the recipe at the same time, or set it up as a center. Be advised, a microwave must be used, so a classroom volunteer may be needed for that purpose. Prepare your students for the activity by reviewing the recipe together, using the poster. If your students are very independent workers, they can probably do the activity on their own. If not, supervise them yourself, or have a classroom volunteer watch a few kids at a time at a center.

Preparation:

1. Run off the materials you need on 8.5 x 11 photo paper (for best results), cover stock, or tag (if you want to reuse the materials). You can run the individual recipes off on copy paper, using the school copier, if you don't want to reuse them. Copy paper isn't the best material for the posters. If you are using the preschool recipe, you may want to run pages 4 and 5 back to back.
2. Gift tags are included (page 12). Run them off on tag and cut apart (if you choose to use them).
3. If you are using the poster, tape the two pages together on the back, and then laminate and trim all the materials you want to reuse.
4. Gather the utensils and ingredients.
5. Set up the cooking area.

Stuff You'll Need:

For each student:

- small pretzels
- round cereal (like Cheerios™)
- square cereal (like Chex™)
- spherical cereal (like Kix™)
- round chocolate candy (like M&Ms™)
- 1 cube, per student, of white almond bark (in the baking section of most grocery stores, and at discount stores at Christmas time)
- red and green sugar sprinkles
- 2 microwavable paper bowls / student
- 1-2 popsicle sticks / per student (for stirring and mixing, plastic spoons sometimes melt)
- a cellophane bag or plastic wrap
- ribbon, yarn, or twine

Utensils:

- Microwave
- plastic spoons for measuring ingredients
- measuring cups—1/4 cup, 1/2 cup
- Soapy water, sponge, and paper towels, for clean up. This is very easy to clean up, since everything can be thrown away.
- If you want to wash the utensils, use very hot water, and they'll clean up easily. Cold water won't work at all.



Almond bark is a very useful candy making material. It's really easy to make lollipops with it, and all kinds of easy quick recipes for candies use it. It's hard to find most of the year, so I always buy a bunch at Christmas time for later use. It comes in white and chocolate. Use white for this recipe.



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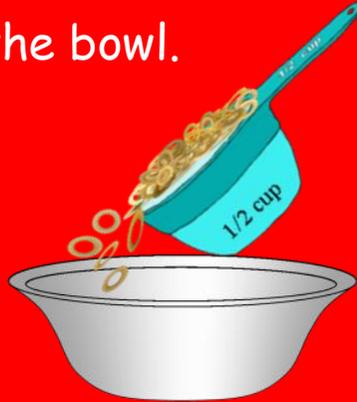
1

Pour 1/2 cup of pretzels into the bowl.



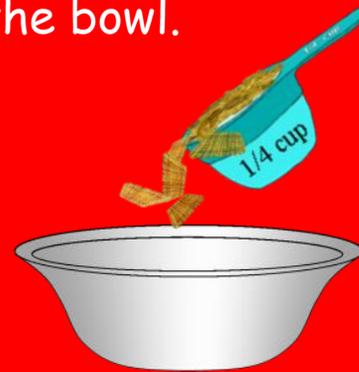
2

Pour 1/2 cup of circle cereal into the bowl.



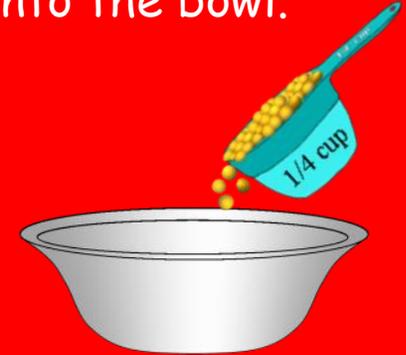
3

Pour 1/4 cup of square cereal into the bowl.



4

Pour 1/4 cup of cereal spheres into the bowl.



5

Pour 1 spoonful of round candy into the bowl.



6

Stir gently.



7

Melt 1 square of almond bark in the microwave for 1-2 minutes.



8

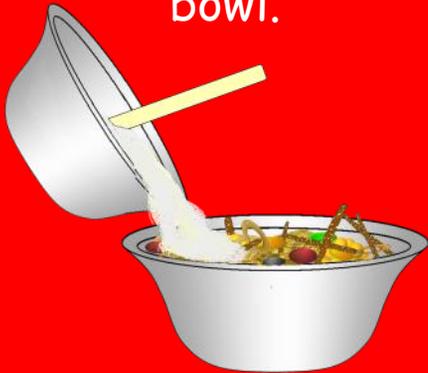
Stir gently.



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9

Pour the almond bark into the bowl.



10

Stir gently.



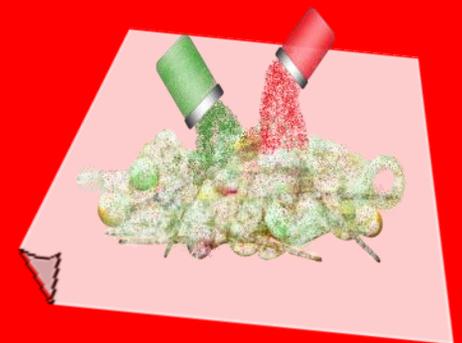
11

Spread the mix on waxed paper.



12

Sprinkle on red and green sugar.



13

Let it sit until it is hard.



14

Break it into pieces.



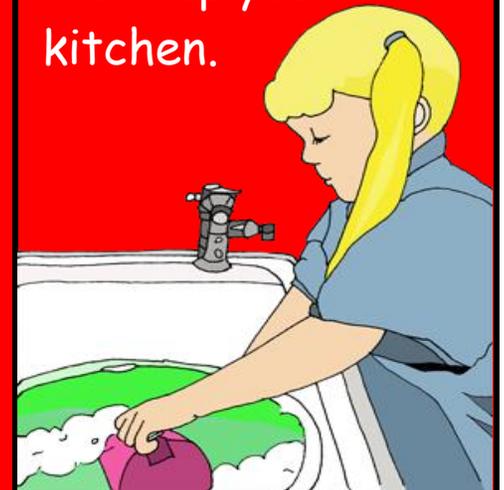
15

Put the pieces in a bag. Put on a bow.

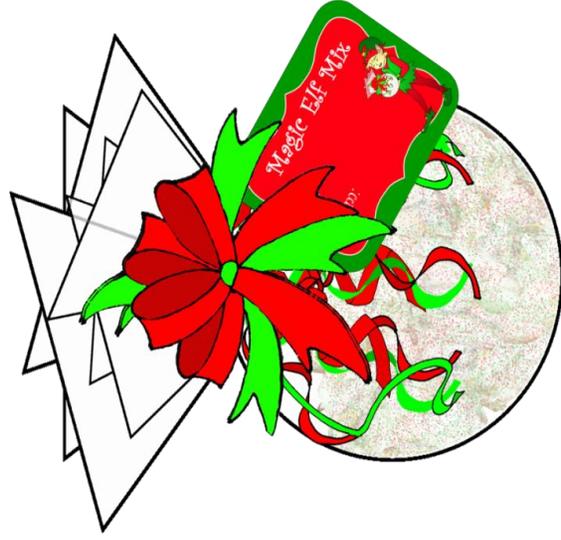


16

Clean up your kitchen.



Magic Elf Mix



Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup pretzels
- 1/2 cup round cereal
- 1/4 cup square cereal
- 1/4 cup cereal spheres
- 1 spoonful round chocolate candy
- 1 square almond bark
- red sugar sprinkles
- green sugar sprinkles

Directions:

1. Put the pretzels into the bowl.
2. Put the round cereal into the bowl.
3. Put the square cereal into the bowl.
4. Put the cereal spheres into the bowl.
5. Put the candy into the bowl.
6. Stir gently.
7. Melt 1 piece of almond bark in the microwave, on high, for 1-2 minutes.
8. Stir until creamy.
9. Pour the Almond Bark into the mix, and stir carefully.
10. Pour the mixture onto a piece of waxed paper. Sprinkle it with red and green sugar.
11. Let it sit for 30-45 minutes, until it is hard.
12. Break into pieces.
13. Take a taste.
14. Put the pieces into a bag, and tie on a bow.
15. Add a gift tag if you like.
16. Clean up your mess.



Magic

Elf Mix



Ingredients:

1/2 cup pretzels

1/2 cup round cereal

1/4 cup square cereal

1/4 cup cereal spheres

1 spoonful round chocolate candy

1 square almond bark

red sugar sprinkles

green sugar sprinkles



Directions:

1. Put the pretzels into the bowl.
2. Put the round cereal into the bowl.
3. Put the square cereal into the bowl.
4. Put the cereal spheres into the bowl.
5. Put the candy into the bowl.
6. Stir gently.
7. Melt 1 piece of almond bark in the microwave, on high, for 1-2 minutes.
8. Stir until creamy.
9. Pour almond bark into the mixture bowl, and stir thoroughly.
10. Pour the mixture onto a piece of waxed paper. Sprinkle it with red and green sugar.
11. Let it sit for 30-45 minutes, until it is hard.
12. Break the mix into pieces.
13. Take a taste.
14. Put the pieces into a bag. Tie on a tag and bow.
15. Clean up your mess.



Magic Elf Mix



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- 1/2 cup round cereal
- 1/4 cup square cereal
- 1/4 cup cereal spheres
- 1 spoonful round chocolate candy
- 1 square almond bark
- red sugar sprinkles
- green sugar sprinkles



Directions:

1. Put the pretzels, the cereal, and the candy in the bowl. Stir gently.
2. Melt 1 square of almond bark in the microwave, on high, for 1-2 minutes.
3. Stir until creamy.
4. Pour the almond bark into the snack mixture, and combine thoroughly.
5. Pour the mixture out onto a piece of waxed paper. Sprinkle it with red and green sugar sprinkles.
6. Let it sit for 30-45 minutes, until it is hard.
7. Break into pieces.
8. Take a taste.
9. Put the pieces into a bag, and tie on a bow.
10. Add a gift tag if you like.
11. Clean up your mess.



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To:

From:



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To:

From:



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To:

From:



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To:

From:



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To:

From:



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From:

