

Pumpkin Patch Rice Krispies Treats

QUICK FACTS



No oven needed



20–30 minutes



Adult help with melting



These festive treats turn a familiar favorite into a fun fall project. Children can help mix, shape, decorate, and create their own little pumpkin patch.

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 package (10 oz) mini marshmallows
- 6 cups crispy rice cereal
- Orange food coloring (optional)
- Pretzel sticks for pumpkin stems (optional)
- Decorating icing for pumpkin faces (optional)

DIRECTIONS

- 1 An adult melts the butter in a large pot over low heat and stirs in the marshmallows until smooth.
2. Add a few drops of orange food coloring, if desired.
3. Remove from heat and stir in the crispy rice cereal until coated.
4. Allow the mixture to cool until comfortable to handle. With lightly greased hands, help children shape small portions into pumpkins.
5. Add a short pretzel piece as a stem and use icing to decorate faces or other designs.

SKILLS CHILDREN PRACTICE



Hand strength through stirring and mixing.



Bilateral coordination by stabilizing the bowl with one hand while mixing with the other.



Hand-eye coordination and motor planning while shaping pumpkins.



Creativity and sequencing by following the recipe and decorating each treat.

ADAPT IT BY AGE



Toddlers can help add cereal with close supervision and press the mixture into a greased pan with adult assistance.

Preschoolers can help shape pumpkins and choose decorations.

School-age children can measure ingredients, follow recipe steps, and design more detailed decorations with adult supervision.

SAFETY



An adult should handle the hot mixture. Allow treats to cool before shaping or eating. For young children, serve in small, manageable portions and supervise eating.

