

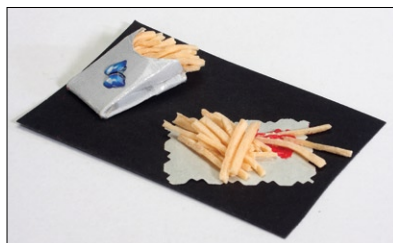
Edible Minis

By Terrilynn Quillen

Here's an idea for a rainy day with kids. Make edible miniatures! You can "no-cook" up some real fun by crafting miniatures using food! Sweet treats like candy and gum can be transformed into dollhouse goodies that are so safe, you can even eat them! (Not for children under 3, of course.) This project is more about fun than exact scale. Enjoy!

What You'll Need:

- Chewing gum
- Craft knife
- Scrap paper
- Scissors or punch with scalloped edge
- Foil
- Cardboard
- Fabric ribbon
- White plastic drinking straw
- Foil gum wrapper
- Hole punch or cap to edible food coloring marker
- Edible food coloring markers or dimensional paints
- Green mint candies (like Tic-Tac® apple, citrus or melon mints)
- Icing (homemade, or commercial tub and/or tube)
- Gumdrops
- Rolling pin
- Toothpick
- Cellophane
- Thread
- Tiny bow



French Fries

Snip small strips from a single stick of chewing gum. Place on "doily" made from paper trimmed to size with scalloped

scissors, or insert into lightweight cardstock folded and glued into bag shape.



Cinnamon Rolls

1. Roll a single stick of gum into a log. Slice into rounds. Place on a small piece of foil-covered cardboard to create a "ready to bake" batch of raw dough cinnamon rolls on a cookie sheet!

2. Cut a piece of fabric ribbon to make a dishtowel.

3. Cut a piece of white plastic drinking straw. Cover with gum wrapper foil to make the biscuit can.



Citrus Fruit Slices

Flatten yellow, orange and green gumdrops with rolling pin. Wash the cap of a fine-tip food coloring marker. Using a hole punch or the cap, punch "slices." Use a white edible food coloring marker to draw on details. Cut slices in half.

Watermelons (not pictured)

Draw dark green lines lengthwise with food coloring marker onto small green mint candies to make tiny melons.



Jumbo Rainbow Lollipops

1. Press pieces of brightly colored gumdrops flat with a rolling pin. Stack them together and press again.

2. Log roll the stacked candy. Cut the log into ¼-inch thick slices.

3. Break off a small portion of toothpick. Insert into the side of a slice.

4. Cut a small square of cellophane and wrap over the "lolly." Tie shut with thread and glue a bow on the front.



Jumbo Doughnuts

Use Froot Loops®, Apple Jacks® or any ring-shaped cereal, even Cheerios®. Apply icing using a toothpick, or apply non-gel

icing from a tube with a screw-top writing tip. Wilton's "Icing Writer" dries well to a fondant consistency, but isn't excessively chalky. It's soft enough to make corrections after application and has a fine tip.

If you don't intend to eat your creations, use dimensional paints to create fruit rind edges, ketchup for the French fries, or icing for the chewing gum cinnamon rolls and jumbo doughnuts.

We recommend eating the goodies the same day as they're made. If the pieces will be kept long-term, most pieces can be left out to air dry for a day or two, then sealed with all-purpose acrylic sealer such as Mod-Podge. An acceptable alternative is to provide a matte finish with aerosol hairspray. While air drying, place items on a paper plate and cover with an inverted plastic storage container. The drying process takes a little longer with this method, but it keeps dust and insects away. ■

When she's not playing with miniatures, Terrilynn Quillen teaches Community Health Nursing. She is also working toward a post-graduate certificate at Indiana University.

Miniature Collector will pay \$50 for published "Kids' Corner" projects. Criteria: Easy-to-follow, brief instructions; accurate scale; inexpensive; attractive; original; and fun! Send a sample project and instructions to: "Kids' Corner," Scott Publications, 2145 W. Sherman Blvd., Muskegon, MI 49441-3434. Include postage if you want materials returned.