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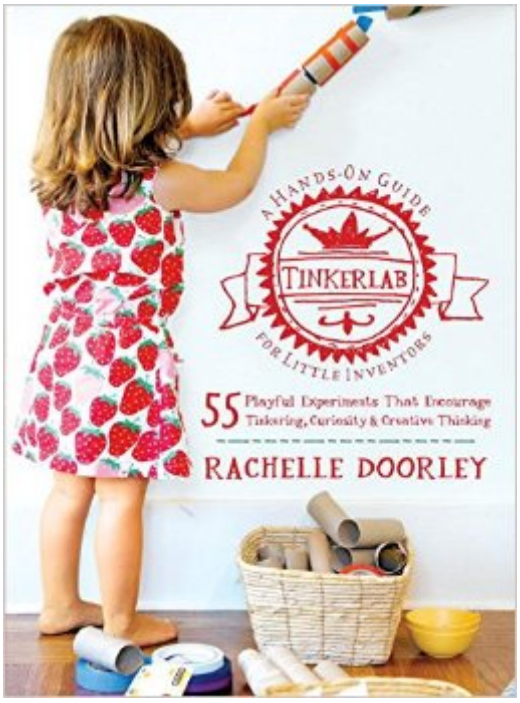
Tinkerlab: A Hands-On Guide For Little Inventors



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Synopsis

55 playful experiments that encourage tinkering, curiosity, and creative thinking from the creator of Tinkerlab.comâ ”hands-on activities that explore art, science, and more.Â For children two and up.Kids are natural tinkerers. They experiment, explore, test, and play, and they learn a great deal about problem-solving through questions and hands-on experiments. They don’t see lines between disciplines; rather, they notice interesting materials and ideas that are worth exploring. This book is about creative experiments, in all fields, that help kids explore the world.Children gravitate toward sensory experiences (playing with slime), figuring out how things work (taking toys apart), and testing the limits of materials (mixing a tray of paint together until it makes a solid mass of brown). They’re not limited by their imaginations, and a wooden spoon can become a magic wand as quickly as a bag of pom-poms can become a hot bowl of soup. This book is about helping parents and teachers of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers understand and tap into this natural energy with engaging, kid-tested, easy-to-implement projects that value process over product. The creative experiments shared in this book foster curiosity, promote creative and critical thinking, and encourage tinkering--mindsets that are important to children growing up in a world that values independent thinking.In addition to offering a host of activities that parents and teachers can put to use right away, this book also includes a buffet of recipes (magic potions, different kinds of play dough, silly putty, and homemade butter) and a detailed list of materials to include in the art pantry.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (126 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I don’t mean to be negative. This book is cute, the bright color photos and optimistic text are refreshing, and it has a few good ideas. I feel like my objections to this book could have been avoided if the book had a more honest, more descriptive title: Art Projects for Very Young Kids or Arts and Crafts for Toddlers, something like that. "Tinkerlab" implies some real experiments, real building projects, for kids at least out of the preschool years. I agree with the reviewer who said even 5-year-olds are too old for most of the projects in this book.The first two-thirds of the activities mostly involve painting and paint related activities such as making complicated and messy homemade glue-based paint. Also, I have an allergy to activities that require many more hours on the part of the parent (setup, preparation, clean-up, supervision) than the total number of hours a child will realistically spend on the activity--if you have the same allergy, you will find only a few of these ideas useful.Another objection is very minor--the author seems to have an obsession with what my grandparents used to call "museum of self." The book gives suggestions on many of the projects for how to make them archival quality, permanent, lasting. I’m sorry, but I do not fall for the belief that people want to receive endless gifts of blobbed paint on acid-free cardstock from a preschooler. Maybe grandma wants one a year. Reminds me of George Carlin’s skit about how every child is special. Every blob of paint your preschooler drops on the paper is special and must be preserved for posterity!

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