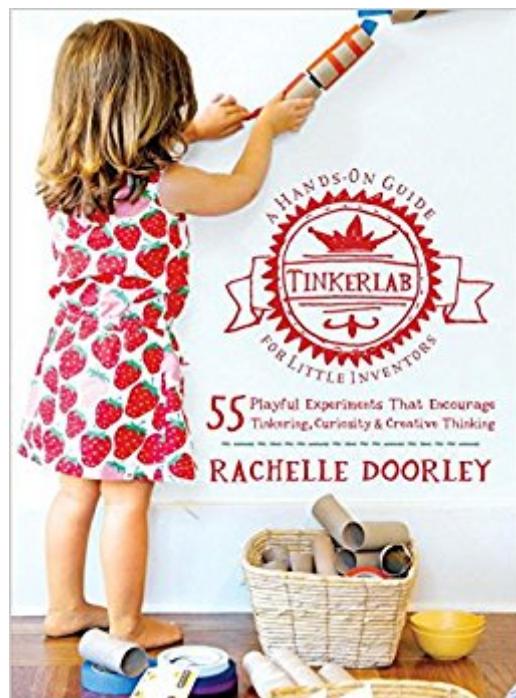


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# Tinkerlab: A Hands-On Guide For Little Inventors



## Synopsis

55 playful experiments that encourage tinkering, curiosity, and creative thinking from the creator of Tinkerlab.com—hands-on activities that explore art, science, and more. 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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## Customer Reviews

Ã¢ “I highly recommend Tinkerlab to any parent with young children! I read the book in one sitting (it was that well written) but know I will be referring back to it for years as I encourage my own daughtersÃ¢ ¸ tinkering, experimenting, and creative development.Ã¢ ¸Ã¢ ¸ •Jean VÃ¢ ¸cant Hul, author of *The Artful Parent* Ã¢ “I love Tinkerlab! This book is a glorious invitation for wonder and delight. The teacher in me respects the approach to creativity, process, and self-directed exploration. The mom in me is charmed by the easy-access of materials and projects. Fun! Fun! Fun!Ã¢ ¸ •Lynn Brunelle, author of *Pop Bottle Science*Ã¢ “Being playful and creative is such a vital necessity in todayÃ¢ ¸s world!Ã¢ ¸ As an arts educator and parent of a curious four-year-old, I greatly value and embrace the Ã¢ ¸tinkering mindsetÃ¢ ¸ at the core of DoorleyÃ¢ ¸s Tinkerlab.Ã¢ ¸ What an exceptional resource for all ages as we work to include more creative experiences and explorations in our lives.Ã¢ ¸ •Michael Murawski, PhD, Director of Education & Public Programs at the Portland Art Museum and Founder and Editor at [ArtMuseumTeaching.com](http://ArtMuseumTeaching.com)

RACHELLE DOORLEY is an arts educator, community builder, and founder of the popular creativity blog Tinkerlab. She studied costume design at the University of California, Los Angeles, and worked on Hollywood films before finding her true calling as an arts educator. After teaching art in Los Angeles schools, Rachelle earned a masterÃ¢ ¸s in arts education from Harvard, and then oversaw docent and education programs at the San Jose Museum of Art. Rachelle lives with her husband and her two curious daughters in the beautiful San Francisco Bay Area, where she leads workshops on visual thinking and hands-on creativity. Rachelle believes in finding fun and meaningful ways to make every day creative, and can often be found experimenting in her sketchbook, taking her kids on adventures, and asking lots of open-ended questions. Rachelle enjoys chai tea, hand-drawn letters, train travel, hikes in the woods, artist studios, and ocean air.

I have somewhat followed the authors blog for a while now, but when I decided to purchase this book I thought it would just be a simple 55 projects. It is much more than that. With several variation to each of those 55 projects which appeal to young children as well as teen-age boys and adults, I was so very impressed as I read it cover to cover in one day. As an early childhood educator I feel it is difficult to find fabulous books such as this one, which has lots of appeal and some very creative projects with some unique spins on the variations. My seven year old is fascinated, as is my 22 year old son. Lots of great ideas for everything from making marks with crayons and markers but also delves into simple machines, robotics, electronics and some really unique hands on art experiences

that are not widely published in the typical make and do books. Love the drawing machine that kids can construct with a simple motor, tape and markers, the geodes inside egg shells, the lava lamp, the photography ideas and the ideas to make art in nature (Which doesn't have to be permanent, still respectful, and fun even for others to enjoy after you're gone). My 7 year old's first project was the straw rockets, and he was hooked on this book. Fabulous ideas for the tiniest of tots to teachers who are not easily impressed, such as me. If I could give it 6 stars I would have. Beautiful photography and simple guidelines throughout the book make this the go to for many hours of fun, unplugged creativity well worth the cost of this great find! Well Done Tinkerlab!

This book gives me ideas for how to give my kids a fun childhood, and as we do the projects, I feel like I'm back in my own childhood! Cloud dough! Who would have thought it would feel SO good to play with oil and flour? Adding the essential oil in it is an extra bonus that will someday be a trigger for the memory. We'll smell lavender in 15 years and my son will say, "remember when we used to make cloud dough and I spilled it all over the floor and then dumped out even more when you went to get a towel?" Yes, I remember.

You've probably seen the pictures on Pinterest and maybe other social media, but perhaps didn't realize the activities were Tinkerlab. What is Tinkerlab? Maybe you have heard about Tinkerlab classes or activity events in your area. What is the difference between Tinkerlab and loose parts? Minnesota even has Teen Tinker Lab events, and I'm sure events and classes are available in many states. If you want to know more, this book will make it easy to set up this kind of learning in your own home or classroom as a special event for indoor recess. The book has 55 activities for children to explore their world with creative experiments with easy to find materials.

This book has great images I mean beautiful, but I was expecting a something a little different. I thought it was more craft related but it seems like there's a lot of advice, motherly advice, walk-throughs things of that nature which is fine, it just wasn't what I was expecting. Adorable book though.

A wonderful book, as I expected as a fan of the Tinkerlab website. Great photos, and fun ideas for kids and grown-ups alike!

This book is great for my 5yo "STEAM" child as well as my others. I'm hoping with this book I can easily pull and idea and quickly set it up for quiet time.

Love, love, love this book! It reset my opinion about how kids should play. I love the idea that you have stuff out for the kids at all times and they can do what they want. Then, they get to clean it up and save some things and throw others out. They are in control of what they create. What a great way to foster independence and creativity.

We LOVE this book. It is filled with lots of great ideas to keep little hands busy doing interesting, interactive activities. I also love that the book makes it easy to do activities by trying to utilizing many things that are already in most homes. The book is well written and truly focuses on activities that will entertain your children's interests, senses and brains. It is such a fantastic book!

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