

Feature Article - Knitting With Children By Sharon Prentice



Pursuing craft activities from a young age is such a valuable experience for children. A craft activity such as knitting allows children to develop confidence in their own abilities, with the results of their efforts unfolding right before their eyes. Knitting promotes creative thinking whilst also developing logic and spatial reasoning skills; children learn to translate a 'plan' (the written pattern or grid design) into a finished piece of work. When we add to this the improvements in fine motor skills and hand strength which are required to master the small hand movements in knitting (and essential in handwriting), we can see that this simple activity has broad-reaching benefits to children of all ages. All of these skills are valuable in other areas of children's lives and learning; spatial reasoning and logic in mathematics and science; fine motor skills and hand strength in writing, drawing, playing a musical instrument, typing, art and other crafts; creativity in problem-solving and a range of artistic endeavours; and self-confidence, a sense of fulfilment and the ability to see a project through to its conclusion, which are invaluable across the full spectrum of activities they may undertake in their daily lives throughout childhood and beyond.

With early exposure to art and craft, children will learn to enjoy the process of creation and will realise the satisfaction that comes from making something with their own hands. It can open their eyes to the work that goes into making something

from scratch, and teaches them to value things made by others all the more.

And, of course, knitting is fun! Enjoyment is the key ingredient to fostering their passion for craft and working with their hands, which will accompany a child on their journey throughout life.

Knitting Yarns by Mail stock a range of products designed specifically with children in mind, that we call "Kids Stuff". French Knitters are great for younger children in the development of pre-knitting skills. The French Knitter provides children with rapid results, producing a long tube of knitted fabric which can be put to a range of creative uses. Once children have mastered the French Knitter, they can move on to the childrens pairs of knitting needles, available in 3.25mm and 4mm sizes. Childrens needles assist a child in the transition to standard knitting needles, as each needle is a different colour for easier learning. Our Basic and Deluxe Hampers for Kids are also great for children just starting out, as they contain the yarn, needles and patterns they'll need to begin their journey towards a lifelong love of knitting.

About the Author:

In addition to working in the family business at Knitting Yarns by Mail, Sharon Prentice completed a Graduate Diploma in Education (Early Childhood) in 2005, and has since been employed as a Kindergarten Teacher at a local kinder, fostering the creativity of children and assisting them to develop their own lifelong loves of learning.

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