

Learning[®]



Teachers' Evaluation Comments

Teachers' ChoiceSM Award
for the Family 2011

Learning® Magazine
8th Annual
2011 Teachers' ChoiceSM Award for the Family Program

Below you will find the comments for your product. As you read the comments, please note that this is the literal text from the evaluation forms. We have not differentiated comments between the teachers on each team. Although we encourage teachers to provide comments, it is not a requirement. Therefore, you may notice if you had multiple entries, the responses may be more or less in depth depending on the team of teachers. We do not use comments in the scoring process. They are provided as insight into the panel's thoughts on your product.

We hope you find the responses helpful and continue to participate in the Teachers' Choice Awards for the Family in the future. Applications will be available in May 2011 for the 9th annual program.

Product 2455 The Nature Connection Company Storey Publishing, LLC
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What aspects of this product did you like the most?

I loved everything about this book. We took it camping and on nature walks, we took it to the beach and I even took it to school to read some of the things to my 5th graders. I liked the font and the colors that were used to print the book in. It looked very natural.

The factual information and background knowledge was helpful. I enjoyed the monthly layout.

I liked how this book made my son go out into nature and explore. He used all of his senses and curiosity to find out about things he had asked me about in the past.

What would you recommend to make the product better?

I do not know of any changes I would make. Maybe you could make a similar book for toddlers, but this book is great. Some of the seasonal activities were not appropriate for the region we live in. I would have liked alternative suggestions, when not able to complete a given activity.

I can't think of anything to make this product better. We really like this book.

Did you find the product interesting or motivating for children? Please explain.

This product is interesting and motivating to children and adults. There was fun information that I didn't know or remember. The activities were fun and easy to do. The book encouraged creativity and the logs they kept were informative.

Yes- It was a useful guide when we visited some of the local park and nature reserves.

My 9 year old son love this book. He likes art and science, so the two together was magic for him. He asked to go outside to explore nature.

Did you find the product interesting or motivating for children? Please explain.

This product teaches a lot of skills. It encouraged writing, drawing, labeling, discovery and many other skills. Of course there is reading and comprehension.

It was a good tool to guide discussion and what are appropriate ways to be an observer. It was also a good tool on how to document and pay attention to details when out in your natural environment.

This product not only taught science but it integrated writing into most lessons.

If funds were available, would you recommend parents buy or use this product to with children at the appropriate grade / age level? Please explain why or why not.

This book would be a great addition to any house. This book would be a great gift for a girl or a boy or a family gift. It really encourages you to get outside and look around at everything.

No- A lot of the activities were not adaptable to the region/environment we live in.

I would definitely buy this product for funds were available. I think this book would also be great to use in a classroom setting.

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Product 2456 Starter Vegetable Gardens
Company Storey Publishing, LLC

What aspects of this product did you like the most?

We loved the subject matter the most! My kids love to garden and my husband loved the book as much as they did. There were so many good ideas they didn't know where to start.

This book presents gardening in a very easy to read and understand way. I liked the format of the book and the art work was good. The book is durable and will hold up well. This book would hold the attention of children too as you look over ideas for a garden with children. Lots of good, clever ideas in this book.

It has easy directions and colorful pictures. I think it would be good for families who live in the city, especially those who live in apartment buildings with just a little piece of ground available to them. I also like that it is organic.

What would you recommend to make the product better?

I am not sure what I would change. The book is kind of large so it might be helpful to make it smaller.

I think a small little picture or bubble with a child helping out in the garden would be a good way to draw children into this book. Even the idea of a little lady bug or other insect that would appear on each page with a little comment about children and gardening would be nice. But in general, this book is very well done.

Maybe a spiral binding so that it is more durable.

Did you find the product interesting or motivating for children? Please explain.

Yes to being both interesting and motivating. I had to buy graph paper so they could draw out the garden plans like they did in the book. They were excited and have planned a fall garden.

I sat and looked through this book with two young children in my home and they were both very interested in the book, especially Bag Gardens.....they have already made plans for this garden for next spring. Children may need the help of an adult to help guide them through the book and answer questions. The book was big enough for them to look at it easily and the garden drawings held their attention.

I think kids love getting their hands dirty and watching stuff grow, so I do think they would like this book.

Did you find the product interesting or motivating for children? Please explain.

Well, where do I start. In addition to gardening and science it teaches planning and drawing to scale. It helps with composting, and water conservation.

This is a good book for introducing some different ways to garden. I liked that it was all about vegetables. Children learn about different foods and the idea that working outdoors in the garden can be fun. Children also learn to plan and talk

about their ideas for a garden...then work to maintain the garden and finally eat the foods and learn about healthy eating. The children learned many new words with this product. Healthy eating, how things grow, about the plant kingdom.

If funds were available, would you recommend parents buy or use this product to with children at the appropriate grade / age level? Please explain why or why not.

Yes this is a great book to buy any child (or adult) who is interested in organic gardening. The ideas are good and there are step by step directions as well as pictures. There are gardens that could go anywhere and so many ideas, you can start of small and stay there or go bigger.

Yes I would recommend this book. But it would only be helpful to parents, grandparents and teachers if they saw the value in gardening and would take the time to share this book with children. I liked this book very much.

I think this would be a good school book. Each grade level could have a little plot of land and garden. I don't see many parents using this book.

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Product 2457 A Parent's Guide to Riding Lessons Company Storey Publishing, LLC

What aspects of this product did you like the most?

This book is a really complete guide for parents to learn the basics of horseback riding to share with their children. This book is awesome and very, very thorough. After riding personally for 16 years on a regular basis and currently a rider with a six year old taking lessons, I found some great information. I know nothing about Western riding and I enjoyed reading about that as well. I like that the book covers all types of riding. The cover looks appealing. I liked the side notes on the pages. I like the bullets for a quick browse to find out what the book is about. The checklists are terrific and a great idea. The cost estimate is great. It also has realistic reasons for riding and buying a horse. You can tell this book is written from someone with experience.

I liked the labeled pictures to help those parents like me who are not horse-inclined. It gave me a point of reference to what my son (who is taking lessons) was talking about.

What would you recommend to make the product better?

I can't think of anything that would make this book better!

I like the illustrations throughout the book but would like to see more for really clueless parents. Maybe have the font a bit larger!

I believe this product would have been better if it would be in question and answer format. I think that style would hold the reader's attention longer since this is a subject the parent doesn't know much about.

Did you find the product interesting or motivating for children? Please explain.

I have told my children that they need to learn a little before diving into horseback riding and this book is just the tool for that. They are more motivated than ever to find the perfect farm to take lessons!

This book is more for educating parents, so no for children but yes for parents since the book helps parents learn about horses/riding lessons. The interest is there because the book assists the children to get what they want. The book is very interesting and a quick read for parents.

My child do not read the book. This product was made for adults. I know my son loves horses and I want to learn as much about them as possible.

Did you find the product interesting or motivating for children? Please explain.

The skills learned through this book are both western style and English horseback riding. Riding also helps one learn balance and is a good muscle workout!

This book teaches tons of riding skills. It is a great basic horse book that tells all about horses, ponies, lessons, barns, tack, attire, and much more. It even has horse etiquette for parents!

The product could teach the parent if their child was ready or not for horse riding lessons and what kind of lessons their child would be interested in.

If funds were available, would you recommend parents buy or use this product to with children at the appropriate grade / age level? Please explain why or why not.

I will recommend this book to a couple friends who have children anxious to ride horses for sure. I always think it's a good idea to get background information before trying something big like horseback riding!

Absolutely, this is a yes for anyone considering starting riding lessons for their child. It is also great as a basic book of knowledge for the beginner. I highly recommend this book.

I might buy this product if I saw it in a book store once I compared it to other books of its type. I seemed to get bored with the way the book flowed. The book was written using lots of "horse talk" and not knowing all the vocabulary, I got lost in it and kept having to reread.