Partners in Play: Creative Homemade Toys for Toddlers : An Owl Book

Linda Neumann
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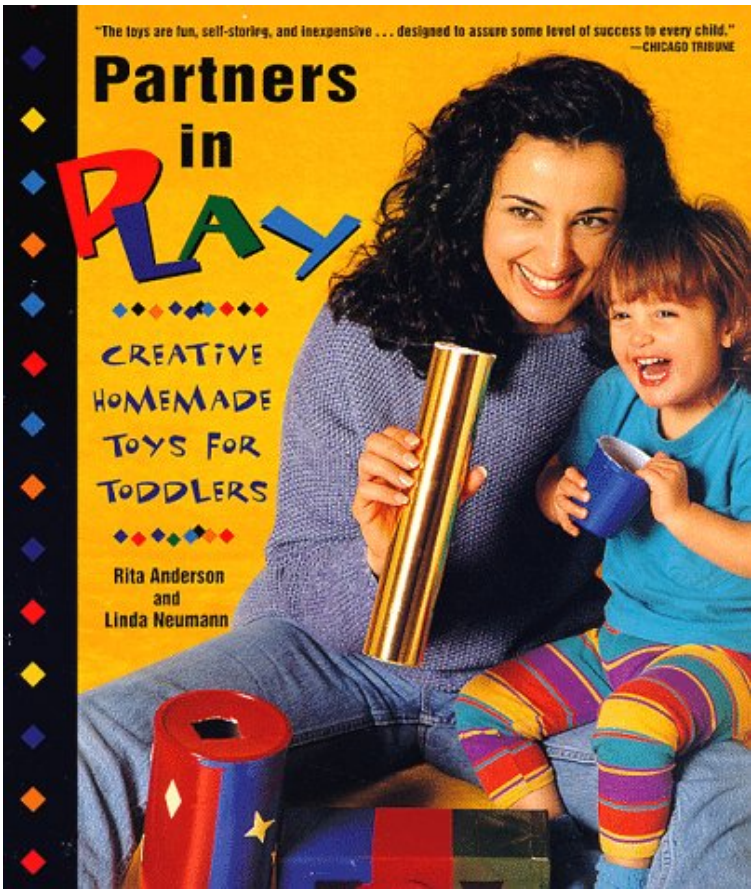

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Linda Neumann : Partners in Play: Creative Homemade Toys for Toddlers : An Owl Book before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Partners in Play: Creative Homemade Toys for Toddlers : An Owl Book:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great for the DIY parent!By Lisa NolanI've owned this book for several years, now, and I keep going back to it for ideas to make toys from materials around the house.This book has great black and white photos of examples of homemade activities. There are easy, step-by-step directions, like "What You'll Need," "Steps to Follow," "Variations," and a "Things to Talk About" section with concepts to talk about with your child as you play together.The book is in three parts, including Part 1: Your Toddler and You, Part 2: Materials, Tools, and Supplies, and Part 3: Toys and Activities.In today's economy (and tomorrow's!) I highly recommend this book that does a great job in showing how to make your own age-appropriate toys out of stuff around the house!

Partners in Play: Homemade Toys for Toddlers, tells how to make simple playthings for toddlers that are fun,

stimulating, and challenging without being frustrating. Written by Rita Anderson and Linda C. Neumann, this book provides step-by-step instructions for making over 40 toys and offers tips for playing with each toy. Partners in Play serves as a guide to help parents as well as teachers and daycare providers enrich playtime with one- and two-year-olds. It describes the kind of play a child can enjoy as a toddler and how an adult can enhance the play experience. The book suggests ways to play with toys that encourage a toddler's language development, promote muscle control and coordination, stimulate senses, and sharpen reasoning and problem-solving abilities all while having a good time. Also included are suggestions for varying toys as a toddler's abilities and attention span grow. The toys described in Partners in Play are grouped into 10 categories according to their characteristics or the skills they require. A sampling of categories is pounding toys, blocks, puzzles, pegboard toys, and a toddler favorite, messy play activities. The book discusses ways to make homemade toys appealing, durable, and safe, and includes photographs to show how the finished toys should look. Also included are recommendations for materials, tools, and supplies to use in toymaking, many of them items found around the house. The toys featured in this book are well tested. Co-author and early childhood educator Rita Anderson developed and refined them for use in the parent/child learn-through-play classes she developed and taught for over 10 years in the Chicago area.

From the AuthorMs. Anderson states, "In writing this book, I hope to enrich playtime for children and for adults. Parents are a young child's first and best teachers, and I want to help parents recognize their potential as teachers as well as play partners. I want to emphasize that teaching your child doesn't require a degree in education or an extreme amount of time. Teaching can happen all day long with materials from around the house. To busy teachers, early intervention specialists, and daycare providers, I want to offer ideas for enriching the learning environment using simple toys and activities that require a minimal investment of time, effort, and money."From the Back CoverGIANT BUBBLEMAKERS...LINKING RING STACKERS...FLOATING BLOCKS...FLANNEL BOARD PUZZLES These are just a few of the more than 40 toys and activities featured in this inventive and easy-to-follow guide that shows how to use readily available materials found in any home to create toys that stimulate toddlers and help them develop age-appropriate motor skills. Step-by-step instructions are provided for making simple playthings that are fun, safe, stimulating, and challenging for toddlers, without being frustrating. Suggestions are included for using each toy to enhance your child's muscle control and coordination, language development, and reasoning and problem-solving skills. All the toys in this book were carefully designed to help children build upon small successes, gaining confidence as their mastery grows. Rita Anderson, a former remedial education teacher, developed this successful learn-through-play program for her Partners in Play preschool and for parents and their children, aged 6 months through 6 years. Freelance writer Linda Neumann is a mother and an enthusiastic participant in Partners in Play.Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. Incline Toys Overview Incline toys demonstrate to children the effects of gravity. In playing with these toys children roll objects down tubes or troughs and watch for the objects to reach the bottom. The objects they roll might be balls, large beads, toy cars and trucks, or even homemade objects such as a wad of paper or tape. This type of play begins to appeal to children at approximately 12 to 15 months. Purpose Overall, playing with incline toys helps children increase their concentration and attention span because the results can vary each time they play with the toy. For example, children might roll a different types of object down the incline, or they can increase or decrease the incline. The individual activities involved in this type of play help develop the following in children: - Finger dexterity and eye-hand coordination (by placing a ball or other round object in a tube or trough) - An understanding of gravity and of cause and effect (seeing that releasing a ball on an incline causes the ball to roll down) - Anticipation (wondering where the ball come out and, in time, predicting outcomes -- how fast the ball will go, when it will roll out of the tube, and which way it will go) - Visual tracking (by watching the ball roll down an open trough) - Directionality (watching the ball roll from top to bottom, from back to front, and from side to side) - Spatial awareness (watching the ball roll through the box and back out again) Toys You Can Make: - Simple ball slide - Double ball slide - Triple ball slide The instructions for making these toys follow. Simple Ball Slide What You'll Need A tube (cardboard or plastic golf tube) Objects that roll easily through the tube. Among the objects you can use are: - Cat toy balls - Large wooden beads - High fly balls - Plastic practice golf balls - Small toy cars or trucks - Paper or tape wadded up into a ball. Safety Note: Avoid using ping pong balls, which develop sharp points when dented. Golf balls may be used, but can be dangerous when thrown. Test any balls or beads used in the No Choke Testing Tube Small Objects Tester to be sure they are too large to swallow. For additional information on this product, see the section on safety considerations in the chapter Tips for Making Toys. Check toy cars and trucks to be sure all pieces (e.g., wheels) are securely attached. Activity Show your toddler how to place a ball (or other object) in the tube and how to angle the tube so that the ball rolls out. Encourage your child to experiment with different angles to make the ball roll faster, slower, or farther. If your child is interested, keep track of the distance the ball rolls each time by marking its stopping point. Variations - Instead of having your child hold the tube, prop it up on whatever is available, such as books, blocks, a pillow, etc. Try propping up the tube on several different objects and see how far the ball rolls each time. - Cut the tube in half lengthwise to make a trough. Your toddler can then watch the ball as it rolls. - Set up two tubes or troughs and see which one causes the ball to roll faster or farther. Things to Talk About

Some questions to ask about the simple ball slide are: "How did you hold the tube? Did you tilt it or hold it straight up and down?" "Did the ball take longer to come out when you tilted the tube?" "Did the ball roll to the same place as before?" "Did the ball roll farther this time than before?" "Did the ball roll farther than the car?" "Did the bead roll faster than the paper ball?"