

I am a reception teacher and have been teaching for 10 years in both Early Years and Key Stage 1. I have been Design and Technology lead for three years and was very eager to read this book as my first thought was how it looked suitable for my reception class and I had been looking at other ways to implement D&T into Early Years.

My Mummy is an Engineer

By Kerrine Bryan and Jason Bryan
Reviewed by Kimberley Mount, Beaumont Primary Academy



Kerrine Bryan



I feel this book would be suitable for both Early Years and KS1 but the concepts in the story would even educate KS2 children too. One aspect I liked is that it rhymes throughout so it links into other areas of learning such as literacy and phonics. There are references to other subjects in the story too, like Science and Maths, which I feel can be incorporated well into D&T projects in school. It also covers working in a team to problem solve which is always a skill I love to teach.

The main character in the story is the 'mummy' who works really hard as an engineer and I found the story quite empowering and inspiring to younger children to follow their dreams regardless of their circumstances. I love how the story covers a whole range of areas to engineering and some of the designs she is involved in are incredible and are very inclusive. The book is very child friendly and goes through the process of D&T in a very clever way, especially for younger children to help them to understand the different strands of the subject.

Whilst reading the book, you can see the children's minds thinking and their creative imaginations have been amazing during class discussions. The first time I read the

story, the children came up ideas of what they could design, and they pretended to be engineers in our workshop area where they designed and made all kinds of fascinating products inspired by the story. One child designed and created a rocket using junk modelling and creative resources; another went into our maths area and got to work on some engineering maths tasks; another group of children spent some time solving problems and working together as a team, making some really tough decisions but coming to a solution.

We have since designed and created aeroplanes, boats and hot air balloons as well as used our hard hats in the construction area to design and build structures using different resources. I have seen some wonderful D&T happening in my classroom from this story as well as giving me ideas to put even more open-ended resources into my provision to facilitate the children's ideas.

This book has been one of my classes favourite so far this year and I am eager to pass it on to other year groups to see if it inspires them just as much as us!

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