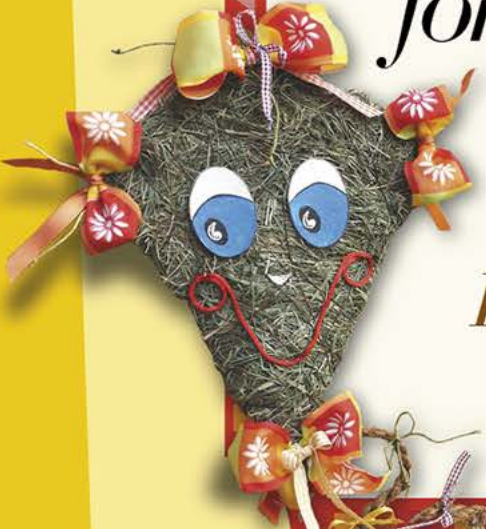


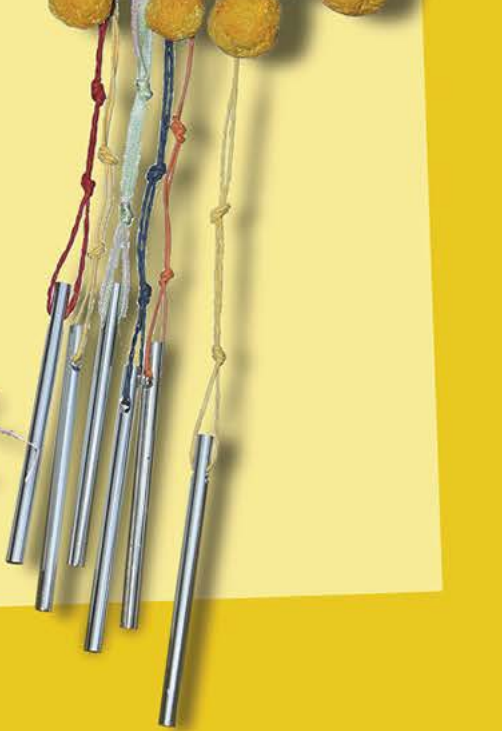


Lucie Dvořáková-Liberdová

*Original Crafts
for Creatures Small
and Large
Resourceful, Playful,
Fun and Creative
Inspiration*



*A Workshop
for Children*



Acknowledgement and Dedication

This book is dedicated to all the children and parents who share a passion for discovering the hidden beauty within the ordinary world. It's a tribute to those who cherish the idea that spending time with one another is among life's most valuable treasures.

This book is also a heartfelt dedication to my twins, Radek and Vojtěch. I extend my deepest gratitude to them for the boundless wellspring of inspiration they provide and for the chance to rediscover the wonders of childhood in their company.

Original Crafts for Creatures Small and Large

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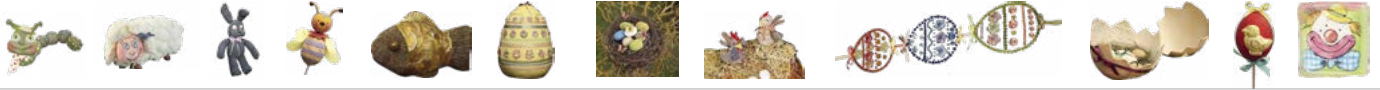
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Introduction

As mentioned in the first part of this book, the most valuable thing you can give to your children is your time and interest. While there are indeed other important factors, the time spent together cannot be weighed against the greatest material possessions, which, despite appearances, do not enrich your child's inner world nearly as perfectly. On the contrary, the time spent in your presence will never be forgotten because experiences are simply unforgettable. In similar words, I began my introduction a while ago, and I must choose the same ones now—they are incredibly important. For example, every child is a little 'artist' in their own way; they enjoy creating something and always take immense joy in their work. That's why it's necessary to provide our young artists with the pleasure of hands-on work: creating things they make themselves or with someone's help. What's even better is when they experience such moments with their parents because during 'work' there is time for fun, talking, praising, and encouraging... And that's what every child needs the most. These are the moments our children will remember for a long time.

Sometimes, very little is needed to bring an original creation into the world that will impress you or someone else at home. Usually, it only takes the willingness to start working, courage, enthusiasm, and a bit of imagination. To create a unique piece, you don't even need an excessive amount of expensive materials, as you can make use of what you find at home or elsewhere, things you didn't even expect to come in handy someday.

For instance, just a few weeks ago, my six-year-old boys came to me with the wrappers from chocolate coins, saying that something could definitely be made out of them. Their positive attitude toward the material they had chosen brought a smile to my face. Firstly, because it immediately reminded me of the saying 'the apple doesn't fall far from the tree' but mainly because they were convinced that cre-

ating 'something' is simply possible—and that's the foundation of everything! The most important thing is to want it because only then everything is possible at once.

And if you try, you'll find that you don't need the latest gadgets to create something unique and beautiful in an unconventional way, entirely your own. By the way, what did the wrappers from the chocolate coins turn into? A magical fish, which you can find on page 25! You see—nothing is impossible, and anything can be created from anything!

Making interesting and unusual accessories that children can use in their games is really easy. However, I'm not saying that all the ideas I present in this book are easy and that you'll master them right away. Some are easier, yes, but the more challenging ones may take more time, but the results will be even more satisfying. In any case, the materials that can be used for their creation are usually thrown away or can be easily obtained. You might find others hidden away as no longer needed. Some may no longer serve their original purpose, so just a few steps, and another original creation is born.

So, go for it—create, experiment, try to find beauty in the little things and discover the magic in ordinary objects, even if you have to modify all the procedures in this book. I believe that with a little imagination, you can surely adjust them to your liking so that you like the finished products.

My wish for children is to be supported in the ideas they want to realize, and to stand by their ideas, because it's from conviction that the most amazing things are born. For adults, I wish they can immerse themselves as much as possible in the world of children, extend a helping hand when needed, but not interfere too much in their children's creations. They should allow their natural creativity to flourish, respect and support their ideas, and share their enthusiasm in the process.



Don't forget that even the smallest creation made by your own effort automatically becomes a real masterpiece, always hiding a piece of its creator.

I am convinced that, whether or not you manage to create any trinket together, for you—just like for me—the enthusiastic eyes of children and smiles on their faces will be the greatest reward.

I wish you beautiful, shared moments with your children while creating with this new book or by your own inspirational ideas, from the bottom of my heart.

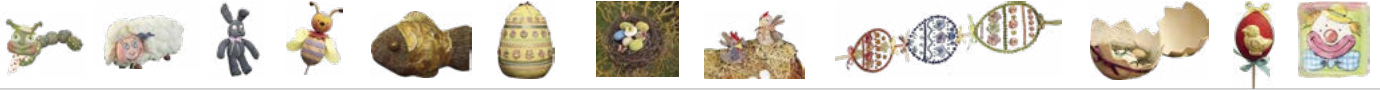
Author
Lucie Dvořáková

P.S. Barely two years have passed, and another book of creative ideas is coming into your hands. I would have never thought that the first part would receive such a response, as selling books in today's internet

age is really difficult. That's why I was even more surprised. After all, preparing such a book—writing it, taking photos, and assembling a whole that makes sense—takes a lot of time and energy. During all of this, you don't even know if the title will succeed in the market. The decision to publish a book could be somewhat likened to a lottery bet, because here too, the outcome is always uncertain—both for the author and the publishing house, to whom I would like to express my gratitude for their trust. Therefore, I am immensely pleased that I didn't bet in vain. I am very glad that you found my books among the thousands of titles in stores, that they inspire you, and that, in the hurried world, you even find time to write me a kind e-mail or send photos of your creations. I am incredibly grateful for all of this, I appreciate it, and I thank all of you very much for your support.

I hope to see you again sometime in the future...





Materials

These are photographs of some material I used when making this book. At first glance, these are ordinary things—sometimes no longer needed and destined for disposal—but upon closer inspection, they represent excellent materials for creativity, readily available and usually cost nothing. I'm sure that after looking

at these pictures, you'll realize that there are plenty of such items hidden in your home, and I'm convinced that you'll find even more on your own. There are so many suitable materials around us that we could create endlessly.



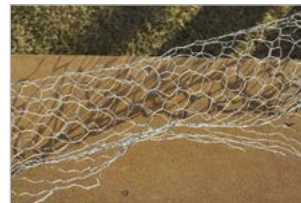
Tin foil



Toilet paper and craft wadding



Fruit and vegetable crates



Chicken wire



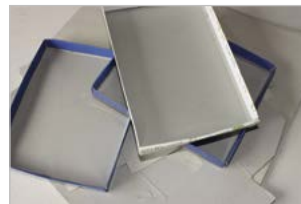
Dish and floor cloths



Chocolate boxes



Cardboard



Shoe and cake boxes



Jar lids



Large milk cartons



Metal pâté trays



Small juice boxes



Balloons



Socks



Chocolate coin wrappers



Stockings – nylons



Tin foil and plastic wrap paper rolls



Hay



Toilet paper rolls



Old CDs



Hardcovers from old books



Old frames



Plastic lids



Wadding



Plastic bottles



Linoleum scraps



Plastic soap bottles



Apricot pits

Amazing Animals



Stocking Caterpillar



Sheep from Gauze and Plastic Bottle



Garden Full of Animals – Decorative Stakes



Teddy Bear and Rabbit from Socks



Bumblebee and Flower



Magical Fish



Stocking Caterpillar

You will need:

- old stockings
- thicker wire
- wadding
- scissors
- two larger black buttons for eyes
- colour strings or ribbons
- green bast
- small straw hat
- coloured felt
- acrylic paint
- brush
- white fabric
- needle
- yarn of the same colour as stockings or fishing line
- universal glue





How to make it:



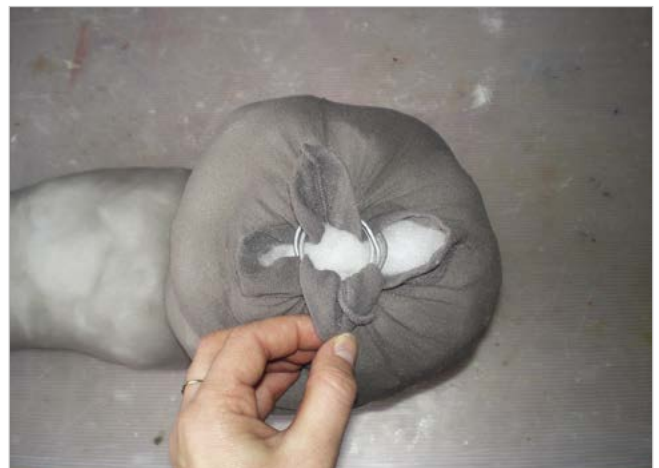
1 Prepare a thicker wire and bend it at both ends with pliers, ensuring they are well sealed so that the stockings won't tear later. The wire forms the core of the caterpillar, and it will help shape the finished product, with its length depending on the size of the future caterpillar. At the point where the head will be, bend the wire upwards and create a larger spiral so that the future head holds up well. Thread a section of the stockings on the prepared frame: pass the wire through one leg, cut off half of the other leg, and leave the rest hanging freely.



2 Fluff up the wadding for better workability and gradually stuff the leg, through which the wire is threaded.



3 When stuffing, shape the body of the caterpillar and its individual parts.



4 Once you've stuffed the head with wadding, tie and tighten the stockings at the top near the wire.



5 Wrap the remaining freely hanging part of the leg around the caterpillar's neck, securing it to the wire with a pull to ensure the head is stable and doesn't move.