

how to use washi tape

How to Use Washi Tape: Creative Ideas and Practical Tips

how to use washi tape is a question many crafters, planners, and DIY enthusiasts ask when they first discover this colorful and versatile decorative tape. Originating from Japan, washi tape has become a beloved staple for adding charm, personality, and flair to everyday objects, crafts, and organizational projects. Unlike traditional adhesive tapes, washi tape is made from natural fibers like bamboo and hemp, making it lightweight, repositionable, and easy to tear by hand. Whether you're a beginner or looking to expand your creative horizons, understanding how to use washi tape can unlock a world of fun and functional possibilities.

What Makes Washi Tape Unique?

Before diving into practical uses, it helps to know why washi tape stands out from other tapes. Its semi-transparent quality, variety of colors and patterns, and gentle adhesive allow it to be removed and repositioned without damaging surfaces. This makes washi tape ideal for temporary decorations, scrapbooking, or personalizing items without permanent commitment. Additionally, washi tape is often acid-free and archival-safe, which appeals to artists and planners who want to preserve their work over time.

How to Use Washi Tape for Crafting and Decoration

One of the most popular applications of washi tape is in crafting. Its versatility means it can be used on paper, wood, glass, plastic, and even fabric (with some precautions). Here are some creative ways to incorporate washi tape into your projects:

1. Customize Stationery and Journals

Personalizing notebooks, planners, and journals with washi tape is simple and instantly rewarding. Use strips of tape to create borders around pages, mark important dates, or make colorful tabs for easy navigation. Because washi tape is easy to remove, you can change your designs as often as you like. Many bullet journal enthusiasts use washi tape to add flair and organize sections without cluttering their pages with permanent markers.

2. Decorate Gift Wraps and Cards

Forget plain gift wrap. Add a splash of personality by using washi tape to create patterns or frame handmade cards. You can make stripes, chevrons, or even geometric shapes by layering different colors and widths of tape. This simple touch elevates gifts and shows thoughtfulness without requiring expensive materials.

3. Create Wall Art and Room Decor

Washi tape can be a budget-friendly way to spruce up your living space. Use it to create temporary wall decals, frame photos, or design geometric patterns on plain walls. Because it removes cleanly, it's perfect for renters who want to add character without risking damage. For example, try making a washi tape gallery wall by outlining photos or posters with contrasting tapes.

How to Use Washi Tape in Organizational Projects

Beyond decoration, washi tape shines when it comes to organizing and labeling. Its ease of use and removability make it a favorite for tidying up spaces while adding color and style.

1. Labeling and Color-Coding

Use washi tape to label jars, boxes, cables, or files. Write directly on the tape with a permanent marker or pen, then stick it onto the item. This method is especially handy for kitchen containers, craft supplies, or office storage. If you want to change labels seasonally or as your needs evolve, simply peel off the tape and replace it with new ones without residue.

2. Planner and Calendar Enhancements

For those who love keeping planners or calendars, washi tape can highlight important events, deadlines, or appointments. Assign different colors or patterns to categories such as work, family, or personal time. This visual separation helps improve time management and makes your planner more enjoyable to use.

3. Cable Management

Tired of tangled cords? Wrap washi tape around cables to distinguish between chargers, headphones, and other devices. This quick identification technique is both practical and visually appealing, especially if you use patterned tapes that stand out.

Tips and Tricks for Using Washi Tape Effectively

While washi tape is forgiving and easy to use, a few tips can enhance your experience and results:

- **Clean the surface:** For best adhesion, make sure the surface is clean and dry before applying washi tape.
- **Use scissors or tear carefully:** Washi tape tears easily by hand, but using scissors can give you cleaner edges when precision is needed.
- **Layering for texture:** Try layering different tapes to create unique textures or color blends in your designs.
- **Seal for durability:** If you want your washi tape decoration to last longer, consider sealing it with a thin layer of clear glue or varnish.
- **Store properly:** Keep your washi tape rolls in a cool, dry place to prevent adhesive degradation or dust accumulation.

Innovative and Unconventional Uses of Washi Tape

People continue to discover exciting ways to incorporate washi tape into daily life beyond traditional crafting.

1. Phone and Laptop Decoration

Personalize your tech gadgets by applying washi tape to phone cases, laptop covers, or chargers. This gives your devices a one-of-a-kind look and can make them easier to identify in a crowd. Just avoid placing tape over ventilation areas or important ports.

2. Temporary Nail Art

For a fun twist on nail decoration, use tiny strips of washi tape to create patterns on your nails before applying a clear topcoat. Since washi tape is gentle and removable, it's a great option for experimenting with designs without the commitment of nail polish.

3. Child-Friendly Crafts and Learning Tools

Washi tape's bright colors and safe adhesive make it perfect for children's crafts. Use it to create shapes, letters, or number games on paper or classroom walls. Because it peels off easily, kids can experiment without creating a mess or damaging surfaces.

Where to Buy Washi Tape and What to Look For

If you're wondering where to find washi tape, craft stores, online marketplaces, and some stationery shops usually carry a wide range of

choices. When selecting washi tape, consider:

- **Width and length:** Depending on your projects, you might want skinny tapes for detailed work or wider rolls for bigger decorations.
- **Patterns and colors:** Look for tapes that match your style or project theme. Some brands offer seasonal or themed collections.
- **Quality:** Higher-quality washi tapes tend to have better adhesive and more vibrant prints.

Trying a variety pack can be a great way to experiment with different designs without committing to a single style.

Exploring how to use washi tape opens up many possibilities for creativity and organization. Whether you want to beautify your space, personalize your belongings, or keep your life neatly arranged, washi tape offers a flexible and enjoyable solution. Its blend of functionality and aesthetic appeal makes it a must-have for anyone who loves DIY crafts or simply wants to add a touch of color to everyday life.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some creative ways to use washi tape for decorating notebooks?

You can use washi tape to create borders around pages, make colorful tabs for easy navigation, or design fun patterns on the notebook cover. It's an easy way to personalize and brighten up your notebooks.

How can I use washi tape to organize cables and cords?

Wrap washi tape around cables in different colors or patterns to identify and organize them easily. You can also bundle cables together by wrapping a strip of washi tape around them to keep them neat and tangle-free.

Is washi tape suitable for temporary wall decorations?

Yes, washi tape is perfect for temporary wall decorations because it adheres well but can be removed without damaging the paint. You can create murals, frames, or geometric patterns on walls to add color and style.

How do I prevent washi tape from peeling off when used on paper crafts?

Make sure the surface is clean and dry before applying washi tape. Press the tape down firmly and smooth out any air bubbles. Avoid touching the adhesive side to maintain its stickiness.

Can washi tape be used for gift wrapping, and how?

Absolutely! Use washi tape as a decorative alternative to ribbon by creating stripes, bows, or patterns on plain wrapping paper. It adds a unique and colorful touch to gifts and is easy to remove without tearing the paper.

Additional Resources

How to Use Washi Tape: A Practical Guide for Creative and Functional Applications

how to use washi tape is a question increasingly posed by crafters, office workers, educators, and designers alike, reflecting the growing popularity of this versatile decorative adhesive. Originating from Japan, washi tape is made from natural fibers derived from plants such as the mulberry tree, giving it a unique texture and flexibility. Unlike traditional adhesive tapes, washi tape combines aesthetic appeal with practical usability, making it a favored tool for both creative projects and everyday tasks. This article explores the multifaceted ways to incorporate washi tape into various environments, emphasizing its features, benefits, and potential limitations.

Understanding Washi Tape: Material and Properties

Before delving into practical applications, it is important to appreciate what makes washi tape distinct. Its semi-transparent quality, combined with a low-tack adhesive, allows it to adhere well to many surfaces without leaving residue or damaging the underlying material. This property sets washi tape apart from duct tape or masking tape, which often leave sticky remnants or tear surfaces upon removal. The natural fibers also provide a pliable yet durable texture that can be torn by hand cleanly, eliminating the need for scissors in many cases.

The tape's range of colors, patterns, and widths further enhances its appeal. From muted pastels and floral designs to bold geometric patterns, washi tape offers a customizable medium for expression, organization, and decoration. Its water-resistant nature, albeit not waterproof, allows it to withstand occasional moisture, expanding its usability.

How to Use Washi Tape in Creative Projects

Scrapbooking and Card Making

In the realm of scrapbooking and personalized card making, washi tape is an invaluable asset. Its decorative patterns can frame photos, create borders, or add color blocks without the permanence and bulk of glue or stickers. Because it can be repositioned with relative ease, users experiment freely with layouts before finalizing their designs. This flexibility is a notable advantage for those seeking precision in their craftwork.

Customizing Stationery and Planners

Washi tape's integration into stationery customization has become a trend among professionals and students. Applying strips of washi tape to the edges of notebooks or planners not only personalizes these items but can also serve a functional role, such as color-coding sections for quick reference. This method is especially effective for visual learners who benefit from associating colors with different subjects or tasks.

Wall Art and Interior Decoration

Due to its removable quality, washi tape is an excellent option for temporary wall art or décor. Users have employed it to create geometric patterns, borders, or even faux wallpaper effects without committing to paint or permanent adhesives. Compared to sticky notes or posters, washi tape offers a cleaner aesthetic and less risk of damaging walls. However, one should test the tape on a small area first, as some painted surfaces may react differently.

Functional Uses of Washi Tape in Everyday and Professional Settings

Labeling and Organization

A practical application of washi tape is in labeling items around the home or office. Because the tape can be written on with most pens and markers, it becomes an instant label maker. For example, color-coded washi tapes applied to cables, storage boxes, or files facilitate quick identification. Unlike traditional labels, washi tape can be removed and replaced easily, allowing for dynamic reorganizing.

Protective Coverings and Temporary Repairs

While not designed for heavy-duty repairs, washi tape can serve as a temporary fix for minor issues, such as holding together torn pages or covering small scratches on electronics and furniture. Its gentle adhesive ensures that the surface beneath remains undamaged upon removal, a key consideration when dealing with valuable or delicate items.

Enhancing Technology and Accessories

Personalizing gadgets with washi tape has gained popularity, particularly for laptop covers, phone cases, and chargers. This application not only distinguishes devices visually but also provides a layer of protection against scratches. Given the tape's thin profile, it does not interfere with the functionality or portability of the items.

Techniques and Tips for Effective Use

Surface Preparation and Application

For optimal adhesion and ease of removal, surfaces should be clean and dry before applying washi tape. Dust, oil, or moisture can reduce the tape's sticking power or cause premature peeling. When applying, smooth the tape gently to avoid bubbles or wrinkles, which detract from the finished appearance.

Layering and Combining Patterns

One of the aesthetic advantages of washi tape is the ability to layer different designs and colors. Overlapping tapes can create complex visual effects, such as gradients or patchwork styles. This technique is popular in art journaling, where users seek to add depth and texture to pages.

Cutting and Shaping

Even though washi tape can be torn by hand, using scissors or craft knives allows for precise edges and custom shapes. Creating flags, banners, or intricate designs requires clean cuts, especially when used in professional presentations or high-quality crafts.

Comparative Insights: Washi Tape Versus Other Decorative Tapes

When evaluating washi tape against alternatives like masking tape, duct tape, or fabric tape, several distinctions emerge. Washi tape's low tack and residue-free removal make it superior for temporary and decorative uses. Masking tape, while also easy to remove, lacks the wide range of colors and patterns. Duct tape provides greater durability and water resistance but is heavier and less visually appealing. Fabric tape offers flexibility but often requires sewing or stronger adhesives.

These comparisons clarify why washi tape has carved a niche in markets focused on creativity and light-duty applications rather than industrial or heavy repair.

Potential Limitations and Considerations

Despite its many advantages, washi tape is not without drawbacks. Its adhesive strength is intentionally mild, which may lead to peeling in high-friction or outdoor environments. Additionally, exposure to prolonged sunlight can cause colors to fade, affecting the aesthetic over time. Users should avoid using washi tape on highly textured or porous surfaces, as the

tape may not adhere evenly.

Cost can also be a factor; premium washi tapes with intricate designs tend to be more expensive than standard tapes. For bulk or industrial use, washi tape may not be cost-effective compared to alternatives.

Integrating Washi Tape into Professional Workflows

Professionals in fields such as graphic design, event planning, and education have embraced washi tape as a tool for both form and function. Designers appreciate its role in prototyping and mood boards, where quick, non-permanent adherence is beneficial. Educators use washi tape to organize classroom materials and create engaging visual aids. Event planners utilize it to customize invitations, decorate venues, and mark seating arrangements efficiently.

Incorporating washi tape into professional workflows can enhance productivity and creativity simultaneously, provided its limitations are understood and accounted for.

Through its unique combination of decorative appeal and practical usability, washi tape offers a versatile solution to a multitude of creative and organizational challenges. Whether for personal projects or professional applications, understanding how to use washi tape effectively enables users to maximize its potential while navigating its constraints thoughtfully.

How To Use Washi Tape

how to use washi tape: *Washi Tape Crafts* Amy Anderson, 2015-10-20 It's the definitive washi tape craft book for adults. Washi tape—the Japanese decorative paper tape that's easy to tear, peel, stick and re-stick—is transformative, fun, and remarkably easy to use. It's also never been hotter. Packed full of amazing projects and ideas, it's the book and tape kit that shows all the ways to be creative with washi tape. The book includes techniques: precision tearing, wrapping, and weaving. How to make bows, rosettes, and other shapes. How to seal and weatherproof designs to make them permanent. And 110 projects, with color photographs and step-by-step instructions, from custom photo frames to one-of-a-kind gifts. The possibilities are endless.

how to use washi tape: *Diamond Painting for Newbies* (*and not-so-newbies): A comprehensive guide to all things diamond painting* Laura Gillenwater, 2024-05-15 **Welcome to your new hobby - diamond painting!** Diamond painting is an easy, fun, sparkly, and often very inexpensive, hobby. It's a hobby that almost anyone can do, from young children to the elderly.
Whether you're a newbie or you're not so new to diamond painting, if you're looking for one of the most (if not the most) comprehensive ebooks about diamond painting currently on the market, this the one you want! This ebook covers, in detail and with lots of pictures, everything you need to know about diamond painting, including

- what diamond painting is, its history, and its benefits
- what's in a typical diamond painting kit
- an overview of the diamond painting process
- how and where you can buy a diamond painting kit that's best for you
- finding and setting up your work area
- setting up your diamond painting kit so you can begin working on it (kitting up)

 doing the diamond painting itself, including tips, techniques, and recommendations fixing and sealing your finished diamond painting putting away your various diamond painting supplies after you're done (kitting down) dealing with your completed painting, including storing, framing/mounting, hanging, gifting, donating, and selling it, and doing advanced diamond painting, such as making a kit from scratch and/or using leftover drills to make free-hand art.

 There's also a wealth of helpful resources in the book's Appendix, including a glossary of diamond painting terms and acronyms a troubleshooting section, with links to where in the book you can find solutions for various diamond painting issues lists of resources for learning more about diamond painting (including videos, websites, social media groups/channels, apps, etc.) various useful charts and calculations you might want or need a shopping list of common, and less common, items you might want to buy to enhance your diamond painting experience, and a link to <i>free</i> printable diamond painting log sheets for creating your own logbook. These log sheets allow you to track more things about each diamond painting project than any others out there the author could find!

 And the book's interactive Table of Contents allows you to quickly get to the info you need.

 All of this information is provided in a friendly, easy-to-understand way, written by an author with over 30 years of instructional writing and editing experience.

how to use washi tape: Fun With Washi! Jessica Okui, 2014-08-19 Washi tape has become the obsession of crafters, scrapbookers, and package fanatics, and now they'll know just how many ways to use it! This inspiring craft book presents 35 delightfully unique and sophisticated projects for decorating the home, accessories, and stationery with washi tape. Using simple techniques and basic materials, crafters can create a pixel heart to adorn their walls, accessorize their favorite shirt with a bow brooch, or create custom goodie bags for gifting treats. With helpful how-to illustrations, easy-to follow techniques for working with washi, and gorgeous photos of the finished projects, Fun with Washi makes it easy to add colorful accents everywhere.

how to use washi tape: Hand Lettering for Beginners Sarah Ensign, 2021-02-02 Create beautiful lettering projects, quotes, birthday cards, and more once you've learned the basics of hand lettering from artist Sarah Ensign. Have you always wanted to learn the secrets to create stunning letter art? Now you can! This book takes you through different hand lettering styles such as faux calligraphy, brush pen lettering, and creating basic font styles such as monoline, elegant, and brush pen scripts. Sarah Ensign, author and influencer shares this fascinating craft with you through pages of colorful examples and worksheets that allow you to practice what you've learned. She also shares practical tips on supplies such as pen and paper, creating beautiful fonts, and master tricky connections, and planning layouts for quotes. Simple Techniques and Endless Possibilities Hand lettering for Beginners has a fun, non-intimidating approach to guiding readers through hand lettering techniques and possibilities. This book will start a fascinating hobby that will allow you to grow your hand lettering skills and create your own unique projects. In this colorful, hardcover book, you'll find hands-on lettering worksheets and step-by-step guides that will quickly build your confidence. Explore your creativity with this fun, creative craft

how to use washi tape: Paper & Tape: Craft & Create Marisa Edghill, 2016-02-25 Learn how to transform washi tape and paper into beautiful stationery, giftwrap, home decor, gifts, and more--all with just a few simple tools! Paper & Tape: Craft & Create is full of unique and inspirational ideas and step-by-step projects that are perfect for washi tape crafters of any skill level. From birthday cards and DIY coasters to paper puppets and wall art, this engaging book is packed with helpful tips and beautiful photographs of finished work. Inside you'll discover how to draw and write with washi tape, make your own cards and envelopes, build pretty washi tape collages, and more. This book also features Mini Make projects that show you how to turn five common craft materials into innovative projects using washi tape. Full of inspirational instruction, sophisticated artwork, and myriad ideas to explore and build on, Paper & Tape: Craft & Create is sure to spur endless DIY and craft projects and spark hours of washi tape fun!

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how to use washi tape: Creative Calligraphy Made Easy Karla Lim, 2020-12-22 Master Modern Calligraphy and Show Off Your Skills with Amazing Projects Learn the art of calligraphy with this approachable, inspiring step-by-step guide. Calligraphy is the key to creating stunning, customized cards, gorgeous hand-addressed envelopes, personalized stationery, unique gift wrap and more. Renowned calligraphy designer and instructor Karla Lim breaks down the complex craft into simple steps so you can get amazing professional results in your cards and gifts, while also enjoying this meditative process. With worksheets right in the book, you can practice forming and connecting letters in a variety of sophisticated modern calligraphy styles. Karla's practice plan makes it easy to get comfortable with the essential tools and techniques before moving on to create personalized projects with your new skill. Add a special touch to your next event with an elegant handwritten menu and place cards. Get creative with inspiring gifts like a memory shadow box and a botanical calendar. Karla also covers the basics of digitizing calligraphy, making it easy to share your creations with friends and family, and to connect with the exciting lettering and calligraphy community online. Packed with essential tips and inspiring project ideas, this book has everything you need to get started and get creative with calligraphy.

how to use washi tape: A Girl's Guide to Bible Journaling Kristin Duran, 2020-12-15 Discover how to express your love for the Lord with the creative and easy-to-follow, step-by-step techniques and projects in this inspirational Bible journaling guide for teen girls. Bible journaling is an incredible way to connect to Scripture. By creating art next to sacred text, your understanding of it

will deepen, as will the meaning of your most precious hopes and prayers. But while you may be excited to start journaling, it can be hard to know where and how to start! That's where *A Girl's Guide to Bible Journaling* comes in. With an easy-to-follow introduction on lettering, explanations of the various tools you'll need, step-by-step instructions on creating the alphabet, and tips on how to design your layout, you'll be journaling in your Bible in no time! From colored pencil to watercoloring, you'll learn how to create beautiful, inspired artwork in the margins of your Bible, even if you're a complete beginner. Looking to delve deeper? You'll also learn other strategies for Bible journaling, including utilizing the margins for sermon notes, personal prayers, Bible study, Scripture meditation, and more.

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how to use washi tape: *Real Bento* Kanae Inoue, 2020-04-07 A collection of family-friendly, easy and inexpensive recipes used and honed over many years by Japanese mom Kanae Inoue. Real Bento is packed with the time-saving tricks that allow you to make bento box lunches each morning in just 10 minutes, using ingredients and recipes that will satisfy the whole family! The recipes are presented by flavor type and key ingredient, so it's easy for parents to find dishes their kids will love. In Real Bento, Inoue presents 200 recipes, divided into main dishes and sides for 22 completed bento boxes. The colorful photos and step-by-step instructions make this an incredibly practical and easy-to-use resource for busy households! In her recipes, Inoue places great emphasis on healthy, fresh and colorful foods that look and taste great when presented together. Her recipes include Japanese favorites and original recipes like: Teriyaki Chicken Stuffed Bell Peppers Ginger Salmon Broccoli and Pasta Salad Beef and Egg Stir Fry Inoue got hooked on bento fifteen years ago, when she began making daily bento box lunches for her husband and herself to take to work, and later for their three children to take to school. She sees bento box lunches as a way of saving money and getting her family to eat fresher, healthier meals. This beginning bento book is a perfect tool for getting lunches packed and a family out the door on a busy morning!

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how to use washi tape: *Sweet & Simple Handmade* Melissa Wastney, 2013-02-28 “Full of beautifully constructed clothing and toys for children from infants to teens . . . includes pattern

pieces and step-by-step instructions. ”—Think Crafts! Whether you stitch up a pair of cute baby shoes, knit a clever cardigan, or upcycle adult sweaters into children’s sweaters, Sweet & Simple Handmade by Melissa Wastney has something for all the little ones in your life. This how-to book features 25 adorable—and very practical—projects designed for babies and young children up to age 10. Inside you’ll find reusable patterns, detailed instructions, and endless inspiration for garments, bags, quilts, and much more! “If you enjoy making gifts for children and embrace the upcycling trend, then this book will appeal to you. Broken down into makes for babies, little ones (toddlers) and children up to ten years, the book contains 25 projects to sew, stitch or knit and comes complete with a tissue paper full sized pattern in an envelope inside the back cover. My particular favorite projects include reversible baby shoes, corduroy pull-on trousers, an easy-wrap dress and a hooded winter coat. The projects are clean and organic in their styling, embracing the popular zakka look.”—Sewing World

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how to use washi tape: Fussy Cutters Club Angie Wilson, 2017-09-01 Get the most out of your print and novelty fabrics with this guide to the technique of fussy cutting—with 14 easy quilting projects! Angie Wilson is a master of cutting fabrics with intention, using prints and patterns to add humor, curiosity and unexpected detail to her quilts and textile crafts. With her tips and techniques, you will learn how to look at your stash with new eyes and piece together the best bits, like making a colorful collage of your favorite things. Use templates to zero in on motifs and create secondary patterns from your fabrics, fussy cutting for color as well as design. Try your hand at 14 fun projects from traditional and improv piecing to English paper piecing and more!

how to use washi tape: Art As Witness Helen T. Boursier, 2021-06-03 Art As Witness is an invitation for professors, researchers, clergy, educators, students, and activists to creatively integrate the arts in theology and religious studies for a practical theology of arts-based research that prioritizes public witness. This methodology challenges the traditional written word as being the privileged norm, arguing that this emerging research genre is an excellent, viable, and necessary option for research that supports, promotes, and publicizes liberating theology for the marginalized, victimized, and oppressed. It includes a detailed case study of “Art Inside Karnes,” the all-volunteer arts-based ministry of presence the author facilitated inside a for-profit immigrant family detention center that became the Power of Hope traveling art exhibit for education, advocacy, and public witness. This primer covers practical ethical, legal, and political matters; includes pedagogical examples for how to use arts-based research for student assessment in theology and religious studies; and provides an overview of arts options, including literary genres, visual arts, fabric arts, theater, filmmaking, and new media with digital content. Art as Witness features 40 illustrations, several case studies, and multiple contributing theologian-artists who engage the arts in themes that include immigration, HIV/AIDS, biblical studies, political protest, gender equity, gun law reform, racial justice, and more.

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fun ideas and activities with Marley and Indie. I'd be lost without it.' JOE WICKS Mum-of-two and founder of the playHOORAY community Claire Russell has helped thousands of families during lockdown discover the joy of play. Her first book The playHOORAY! Handbook is a lifesaver for busy parents juggling work and childcare looking for fun ideas for activities, crafts & games to entertain little kids. With 100 activities using items from around the house, you'll find everything you need to entertain babies, toddlers and younger school-age children. From £1 play, sibling play to no-guilt screentime, this is the perfect book for all the family. And best of all, you'll be learning valuable skills whilst having fun!

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