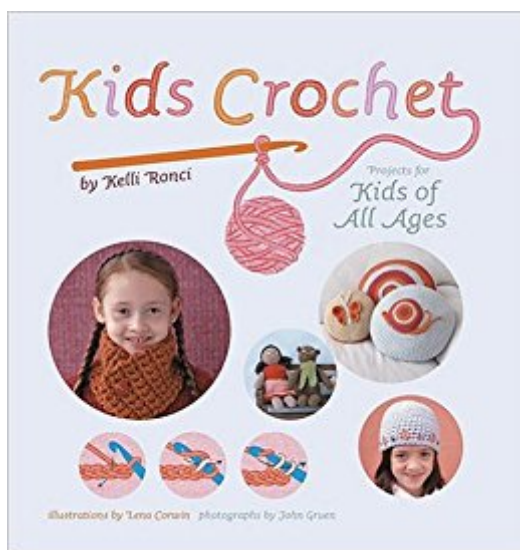


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# Kids Crochet: Projects For Kids Of All Ages



## Synopsis

Among the unique projects included are earflap hats, a patchwork poncho, snail and butterfly pillows, a cupcake-shaped pin cushion, and a sweater with an optional hood. With Kids Crochet, boys and girls learn how to crochet and also about crochet traditions around the world; where to go for help and materials; ideas about crocheting for charity; and, most importantly, how to be creative and imaginative with these new skills. Kids Crochet is the second title in STC's Kids Crafts Series (following Kids Embroidery/Fall 04 and preceding Kids Weaving/Fall 05).

## Book Information

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Grade Level: 4 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4-8 In this handsomely designed volume, a combination of softly hued illustrations, sharp, colorful photos (including dozens of full page), and step-by-step instructions clearly guides young people (including "lefties") through 15 projects. All aspects of crocheting are covered: yarns, tools, hooks, size, sides, rows, attaching a new color, borders, texture, increasing/decreasing, stitches (chain, single crochet, woven, rib). Handcrafted items include a neck cozy, tool pouch, friendship cuffs, patchwork poncho, triangle-square quilt and pillow, and critter cushions. Boxed text provides useful information on winding a ball of yarn, weaving in tails, sewing on a button, keeping track of rounds, etc. Along with Susan O'Reilly's Knitting and Crochet (Thomson Learning, 1994), this title is a good choice for craft collections. Augusta R. Malvagno, Queens Borough

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Gr. 4-7. Here's another beautiful crochet book to join Jane Davis' Crochet: Fantastic Jewelry, Hats, Purses, Pillows & More (2005). This, too, has projects that kids will really enjoy making: hats, a poncho, a pillow, a scarf, bags, toys, and head and wrist bands. What will especially entice children are the sharply reproduced color photographs, which make the projects pop. Also excellent are the attractive drawings showing crochet basics. This offers some extra bang for the buck with sidebars providing instructions for more-complicated crochet techniques and information about subjects such as crochet around the world. Both boys and girl are shown enjoying the craft. Ilene Cooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

There are things one orders on line for others, particularly for grandchildren, which one would prefer to preview before sending. My two oldest granddaughters turn 10 and 8 this summer, which means that they are the right age for crafts. I had stumbled upon a lap loom and bought the oldest girl one for Christmas (made in NH and sold at an independent toy store in MA), while the younger one received a potholder loom. Although weaving seemed a good place to begin, exposing the girls to domestic crafts grew as an idea. I started skipping through the internet, looking for kid friendly books and tools. I bought this book, Kids Crochet, with the intention of sending it to them later . . . I was committed to the looms and, really, one craft at a time, is best. Two craft projects would have overwhelmed them. I'm still going to send the Kids Crochet book later, either for Valentine's Day, Easter or their summer birthdays . . . after buying another for myself. I learned to crochet in 5th grade through a friend. Crocheting in the late 1950s is not what it is today and the 'projects' generally reserved for children were useless and discouraged any further interest in this craft. Frankly, the same criticism applies to all crafts taught children during the 50s, including the granddaddy of them all: the gimp lanyard. Furthermore, if anyone should stumble upon a project book for kids crocheting that was written during the middle of last century, one would assume that kids had no taste, no preferences, no voices of their own. Kids Crochet is a beautifully illustrated book featuring photos of attractive and happy kids (boys as well as girls) making and wearing crocheted items. The book begins by telling left-handed kids how to adapt the instructions, then suggests kids try finger crocheting before using a hook. Smart moves. Next, it illustrates the various weights in which yarn is made and teaches kids how to wind yarn into a ball. It briefly discusses the sources for yarn, then suggests tools hobbyists might need and explains how crochet hooks are

sized. Drawings accompany the text that explains how to create a chain stitch and single crochet. This is a boon for kids whose parents never learned and who don't have a grandmother who lives down the block. The projects are both pretty and useful. There is no crocheting of doilies that no one but a great-great-aunt or the next door neighbor with an "authentic Civil War Era" decorating scheme would want. They include a fashionable neck cozy; a tool pouch (which could also be a small wallet or cosmetic bag); friendship bracelets; handbags; scarves; a poncho; a pretty headband; a quilt; several pillows; variations on a popular hat style and toys. The coup de grace is a sweater. In other words, the kids can make things for themselves as well as things they can give as gifts. Both are important. When a child develops a skill, the child wants to show it off. A doily? Yuck? A cozy and pretty hat a girl made for herself and decorated according to her taste? YES! Children also love giving things to others. The child who receives this book can make a teddy bear for her new born cousin or a birthday present for her mother, grandmother or BFF. I can not recommend this book highly enough. But I will add a hint: give this book along with enough yarn to complete two projects (in colors the child likes) and the proper size hook. When adults give kids craft items, they frequently fail to give supplies for the second project. No wonder the child loses interest.

As a child I only did basic crochet as my mother couldn't teach me further and nobody else in my extended family crocheted. I am a teacher and like to use crafts to inspire my students to become industrious and interested in healthy pursuits. When I received this book, I went through it and couldn't believe how simple crochet all of a sudden became for me. The projects are fantastic, it slips some history in there, is clear on what equipment you need. A parent could easily decode this to explain to their children... if their children didn't figure out what to do for themselves! Very happy and I am excited myself to try my hand at these things (I sometimes bring my projects to work so my students get curious about what I am doing. Best way to introduce to children? Show interest in doing it yourself)

The Kids Crochet book is wonderful. I bought this book for my 10 year old son who wanted to learn how to crochet. He has been able to teach himself to make scarves and hats and change colors. He also has made projects using 2 different colored yarns for a heathered effect. One of the interesting tips they include. I was happy to find that the book offers great projects to make for boys too. He is going to make the juggling balls next. This book only uses single crochet, which is great for beginners, that way they can get to making projects fast and don't get confused by stitch patterns. My son crochets on car rides and on winter weekends. This is a great activity for kids and

adults. The book is hardcover and the pages are nice and thick. The only improvement I would make is have it spiral bound.

I bought this book for a girl I care for part time. I won't be able to be there to help her most of the time, so I needed a book that really explained what to do without another person showing them. The illustrations and images in this book are great and the projects are really attractive to a child, rather than potholders and a tea cozy that some other books have as beginner projects. I also very much appreciated that the book is accessible to both boys and girls. While there is not a picture of a boy on the cover (which I think there should have been), there are great images of boys enjoying crochet inside, which I think is very important to help the art spread. Overall, great beginner book with wonderful instructions, great projects, and beautiful images. When you gift, don't forget a crochet hook and a skein of yarn! They are going to want to start right away!

I got this in order to teach my daughter to crochet, but I also had to learn. It's clear, concise, well illustrated and is a great starter set for a kid, including me. It teaches the basics of crochet, adding colors, working with borders, sewing pieces together, etc. It does not, however, cover double crochet, treble crochet or some of the more complicated stitches. However, given that this is meant to be a primer, it's not terribly missed. Couple this book with a few good youtube instructional videos and you'll be on your way in no time.

This book is great for beginners, but just as enjoyable for those who have mastered techniques, and are looking for some fun projects to work on. The projects are fabulous - my daughter (8 years old) can't wait to start an new one. All of the projects make fine quality finished products. The step-by-step instructions are clear and easy to follow. I checked it out of our local library for myself as a refresher, but once my daughter viewed it, we had to have a copy of our own. So glad we did!

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