

# Book Reviews

## What have you read lately?

You can tell so much about a person by the books they read.....

Recently, Dorling Kindersley (DK) launched its Made with Care books, four new titles that they claim to be the greenest books in the world.

Whilst we cannot verify the truth of this claim, we can see that they certainly have made a massive effort to keep the production methods of the books as eco-friendly as is possible in the current climate.

The books do look different, each one has a cover made from 100% recycled cardboard, and they have done away with the useless jackets that rip and get discarded anyway.

The paper used is certified by the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council). This means that the paper is sourced from responsibly managed forests, and made in paper mills that promise to recycle 91% of the water used during manufacture. All card is recycled. For every tree felled, a new one is planted.

To further reduce their carbon footprint, DK looked closer to home to find a printer that could meet both their production requirements and environmental policies. Mohn Media in Germany is a shining example of modern printing methods that use all resources as carefully as possible. The company only uses paper that is from FSC-certified European forests, and it has installed a combined heat and power system that allows it to generate 100% of its own electricity.

All printing is done with vegetable inks, not petroleum products. When you think about this, we have documents in museums from 1600's when there was no petroleum, so there cannot be much wrong with naturally produced inks.

Just in case you are still not impressed, DK has partnered up with Bookaid International, and arranged that every time a book from the 'Made with Care' range is bought on Amazon, they will donate a book to a child in another country.

The four titles in the range so far are:

Earth Matters, Grow Organic, Make it!, and Green Babycare.



Earth Matters is an encyclopedia covering environmental issues. It is an excellent family reference book, with pictures and illustrations that grab your attention and make you want to read more. The format is brilliant, take a subject, (for example, mountains), then explain how and where they were formed, discuss

their eco systems, look at current threats to those eco systems, and then give advice on what we can do to help lessen the threats.

Grow Organic is basically a reworking of the HDRA (The Henry Doubleday Research Association) encyclopedia of Organic Gardening.

The book covers vegetable growing in detail (as one would expect in this current climate), but it is more than another 'vegetable book'. Flowers and landscaping are also featured.

I guarantee, the pictures alone will have you reaching for the garden fork.



Green Baby Care is impressive in its range of ideas and useful advice. Following in the theme of the other books in the range, the illustrations and pictures draw you in to the text, and there you find lots of new ideas.

There's a lovely recipe for baby cleansing lotion that uses chamomile, hemp and honey.

Never mind baby's bottom, it seems to me that is good enough for use on my face! (because I'm worth it..)

If you are expecting, have young children, or want a gift for a new mum – then this is a real winner.

DK are spot-on with this range of books – and we look forward to more books being manufactured in this way, with the same quality content.