Rikis Birdhouse by Monica Wellington

This Charming Tale About A Young Birdwatcher Even Gives Instructions On How To Make A Birdhouse!

Riki admires the beautiful birds that visit his yard. So he decides to build his feathered friends a home. Follow along as he measures and saws the wood, then glues, hammers, and paints his birdhouse. When spring comes, bluebirds move in. Soon there are eggs and babies! As the seasons change, the bird-watcher finds joy in admiring, helping, and learning about his avian friends. Monica Wellington’s bright, beautifully detailed artwork and simple text are the perfect introduction to the fun of backyard bird-watching.

My Personal Review:
Riki enjoys being in his yard enjoying nature. In his yard there is a garden, butterflies, a squirrel and many different kinds of birds. His favorite thing to do is watch birds, feed and listen to them sing. His favorite kind of bird is the bluebird and he decides that he will draw up some plans to make a birdhouse. Riki gathers up all his needed supplies, along with the help of his curious dog and cat, and gets to work!

Safety pays in many ways and Riki is very careful and puts on his goggles even before he starts to work. He checks his "measurements carefully" before his saws into his wood. Like Thoreau, he is writing in his journal to record his progress and what he sees around him. The birdhouse is coming right along as "he puts the parts together carefully following his plan. He glues and hammers and sands." After he painted his birdhouse, he found a place to put it in the yard. He's hoping that some bluebirds will find it cozy enough to make it their home. In the winter he still "prepares some special food to put out for all the birds." Will Riki be lucky enough to have a bird family living in his yard?

Many children are as fascinated with nature and, like Riki, would enjoy building a birdhouse to put in their yard. This beautifully written and illustrated tale not only tells a story, it also gives instructions of how to actually build a birdhouse and install it. The instructions are well written,
exact and do mention the need for adult assistance. There is also information on birdbaths, feeders and a recipe for bird food cupcakes that can be hung in a yard. Additional recommended websites are mentioned. This book and a trip to the hardware store for materials should be next on your must have list!

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