

## Reviews

**Resource:** Marbling and More  
**Publisher:** Dragonfly Innovation, Inc.  
**Grade Level:** Age 8-Adult  
**Website:** [www.DragonflyInnovation.com](http://www.DragonflyInnovation.com)  
**Telephone:** 800-998-8097  
**Retail Price:** \$34.95  
**Review by:** Shari McMinn

Dragonfly Innovation's art kits are all about "the art of developing creativity." These are not typical "craft kits," but a professional, award-winning art class in a box. Dr. Marvin Bartel, Ed.D., Artist and Art Education Professor Emeritus, lends his expertise to each kit, and the Dragonfly folks include a multitude of learning ideas and suggestions through accompanying flyers and brochures.

The "Marbling and More" kit was a thrill to experience and review. The subtitle, "Experiment with marbling inks, papers, and fabric to create wonderful works of art," says it all. Our family, with kids at home ranging in age from 3 to 17 years, decided to use this kit as a fun activity for my middle school daughter's family birthday party. It was a very memorable family night with all of us getting involved to create some great artwork.

The kit contained all the supplies necessary,

including a very thorough instruction booklet that showed, in full-color photographs, the step-by-step directions for successfully completing the project. We literally only provided the drop-cloths—everything else was included. What a relief! I hate getting ready to start a project only to find I am missing a key ingredient. The folks at Dragonfly have thought of everything. They included so many supplies in the kit that we'll be able to use it for months to come! And at just \$34.95, it's a real bargain compared to the cost of other forms of learning and entertainment available out there. We'll enjoy many hours of family interaction with this kit!

The instructions were thorough, but still left room for us to exercise our creativity. We each took a turn creating marbled paper, even the toddlers taking part in the fun (with supervision, of course!). The accompanying booklet asked mind-expanding questions about the project as we went along. It also gave other optional ideas for project variations.



The aspects I most appreciated as a teacher, artist, and mom, were that the directions were clear, it was easy for everyone to learn, and there was creative thinking going along with each step, not just following a list of directions. Marbling paper is a truly creative endeavor with each child having a totally different look to their art. It is the kind of art and learning that honors the uniqueness of each person—their speed, detail, personal taste, and finally how they will use the end product.

I offer my highest recommendation for this curriculum—and it is indeed a curriculum. Dragonfly has a number of art kits that stress creative thinking, and we are looking forward to trying some of the others in the near future. Whether your homeschool approach is highly-structured or very relaxed, your family would surely enjoy these kits, either as part of your scheduled learning experience, or for family fun night. Highly recommended! 🍀

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