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Whimsical Hats

Lynne Rowe
Barron's Educational Series (Aug 1, 2013)
Softcover $16.99 (128pp)
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Wouldn't your little cupcake get ten times more *awws* and cheek pinches if she actually *looked* like a cupcake? A bold red mushroom cap will have your tot resembling Mario's Toad the stripy zebra, winking owl, or leggy octopus will add a creative dimension to imaginative play and the Christmas tree, pumpkin, and snowman will bring extra cheer to the holiday season. Turn heads with any one of the thirty crazy designs in Lynne Rowe's *Whimsical Hats*.

Rowe's detailed instructions make even the most complex pattern easy to follow. Circular designs, ear flaps, and special accessories—namely animal facial features—are clearly explicated, as in the Big Bad Wolf hood: "Cut 4 small triangles of light gray felt slightly smaller than the knitted ear. Stitch 2 triangles together using whip stitch and white thread. Pin to the white front of the ear and stitch in place."

Beginners as well as experienced knitters can enjoy a quick project, as Rowe leads readers through the process of making each hat—and all pieces that go with it—one row at a time. The "Techniques and equipment" section at the end of the book is both a primer for newbies and a refresher for returning knitters. The variety of methods teaches a broad spectrum of knitting basics, just as the variety of styles offers something for every child's personality: meek or wild, sweet or plunderous, sensible or fantastical.

AIMEE JODOIN (August 31, 2013)

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