About Aunt Goodiebags

Aunt Goodiebags is a tiny company that was formed to provide workshops and books for teachers to help them use and understand technology.

Based in Syracuse, NY, Aunt Goodiebags has provided workshops, keynotes throughout the U.S. and Canada as well as on-line classes, chats and books.

About Dr. Nancy Smith

"I have always lived in a kind of MakerSpace — I just never used that name. Growing up, our house was always full of stuff. My father was always making or fixing something. Both of our parents encouraged my sister, brother and me to make things and learn to safely use and care for tools."

Former K-6 Art Teacher, professor, museum education curator and keynote speaker, Dr. Smith is known for her ability to engage teachers in learning about technology.
(as long as the supply of choc-chip cookies holds out!)

(P.S.- Dr. Smith's Ph.D. is in Teaching and Curriculum with a focus on Evaluation)

About MakerSpaces

A good MakerSpace needs to have specific lessons and instruction about techniques and safety as well as "stuff" to encourage students to build, create and experiment with in order to construct projects. The atmosphere in a MakerSpace needs to encourage experimenting and questioning with support to try new things.

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Aunt Goodiebags
Nancy Smith, Ph.D.

Barnes and Noble
Dewitt, NY

HyperDuino

www.hyperduino.com

HyperDuino is a California-based company founded by Roger Wagner (HyperStudio inventor).

HyperStudio has always been my go-to program for making… anything! HyperDuino is a tiny circuit board that attaches to an Arduino. HyperDuino provides a way to use Arduino technology without breadboards and difficult to understand code.

You can start with a simple touchpoint/LED project (Ex— Science Fair project board: touch a point on a label/description and an LED lights up on a model!). As you continue to learn to use the HyperDuino, you can connect your project to your computer. You learn the logic of programming while creating Playlists to connect your project to information and videos on the Internet.

Electro-Dough

www.techwillsaveus.com

Tech Will Save us is an British company that designs and manufactures S.T.E.M. (Science Technology, Engineering, Math) kits for kids.

I don't remember how I stumbled across the Tech Will Save Us site but I am happy that I did!   This London-based company provides kits that encourage kids to experiment with and understand electricity. This site has real projects that kids can make and understand.

Many kits now on the market show "Science as Magic Trick" projects that start simple and then almost immediately make an impossible jump to making robots. Tech Will Save Us is NOT that kind of company! The extensive project ideas on the website are very "kid-friendly" and well-explained.

Book Creator

www.bookcreator.com

Book Creator (based in London) is an app for iPad and Chrome that allows you to combine text, images, audio and video into… books!

The Book Creator app was one of the first apps I downloaded to my first iPad. I've been using it ever since! I have become an Ambassador for Book Creator and hosted a Twitter chat last summer that included participants from all over the world!

Book Creator is a blank book. You fill it with words, art, video and Internet links. It makes books that are as simple or complex as you make them.

You can read the books on your computer or iPad or read them online. Books can "live" in a library or be printed out!