

Title:

Up To Something

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Illustrator:

Kirrili Lonergan

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Reviewed by:

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This book highlights the creativity, imagination and capability that young children possess, that may not always be seen by the adults around them. Billy sees a poster advertising the big race and is excited when Dad says they can build a cart and enter. "Imagine what we could build if we worked together, thought Billy!" However, Billy's excitement soon turns to disappointment when it turns out Dad thinks he's too young to use the tools and his job is only to pass tools, watch or clean up. Billy then decides to slip away and build his own cart. When it is time to unveil their creations, Dad realises that Billy does have the skills and imagination to create something amazing. They go on to work together and build a cart to great success, with the final illustration showing that Billy and Dad won the race!

The book highlights the relationship between father and son, with Dad passing down his knowledge to Billy and Billy displaying his creativity by building his cart with recycled objects. It also shows the satisfaction that children get when they can follow their ideas and create, rather than just being told what to do.

Katrina McKelvey has over ten years of primary school teaching experience and this is reflected in the language she uses, which is just right for kindergarten and early primary age children to relate to and enjoy. The detailed illustrations by Kirrili Lonergan complement the words beautifully, with something new to enjoy upon revisiting the story.

