

Li'l Masterpieces

By Roseanne Wells

The fridge is a classic display space for children's artwork. But what if junior brings home so many finger paintings that you can no longer open your refrigerator doors to get at the food? Instead of stashing his art in a drawer, send it to the Little Author, an East Bay publisher that binds children's art into books.

Maxton Beckwith, a former municipal bonds broker who has written and illustrated children's stories as a hobby, started the company last year. Working with his wife, Sharon, a former sales and marketing associate, Beckwith offers a personal and practical gift for youngsters and parents. "Each time we create a book, you get to remember each piece, whether the artist is two or 15," says Beckwith, an Orinda resident.

Little Author products range from \$49.95 to \$65, and are available at Red Wagon in Lafayette and Berkeley, as well as <http://www.littleauthor.com>