

the playful invention & exploration network

As we near the end of the NSF PIE grant, I feel that our top priority should be **dissemination**: how can we document all that we have created and learned over the past three years, and how can we best share it with the rest of the world?

There has been good progress on some aspects of dissemination: the **PIE Web site** (www.pienetwork.org) has links to lots of good PIE ideas and activities; several PIE people are planning **workshops** to introduce PIE ideas/activities to others; and the **Playful Invention Company** will make PIE-related technologies commercially available later this year.

But I believe that there is also a need for **print materials** – designed to convey the spirit and ideas of PIE, and to help others get started on PIE activities. These materials could be helpful in other dissemination efforts (e.g., workshops), so it seems important to focus on these materials sooner rather than later. (Also: We promised to produce print materials in our NSF proposal!)

I have been talking with a few other PIE people about developing materials in the style of a **Klutz** book (www.klutz.com). The book could feature a different PIE activity on each page (or page-spread), similar to this example from the Klutz book **Create Anything with Clay**:



We'd love to work together with others in the PIE Network on this idea. Here's a proposed **plan of action**... We will organize a **charrette** this July (in the Boston area) to work on the book. We'll ask the charrette participants to develop some **sample mockups** ahead of time. At the charrette, we'll discuss what PIE projects/activities are best to include, compare different approaches/styles, work together on new mockups, and further refine plans for the book.

Interested in participating in the charrette? If so, let me know (mres@media.mit.edu). If you're not interested in producing mockups or coming to the charrette, but want to be part of the ongoing discussion about the book, let me know that too. I'll create a **mailing list** for everyone who wants to be part of the discussion (pie-book@media.mit.edu). We'll post all of the mockups on the Web, so everyone can see them and provide feedback.

We will ask NSF for **supplemental funding** to pay for the summer charrette, and for further development of the book.