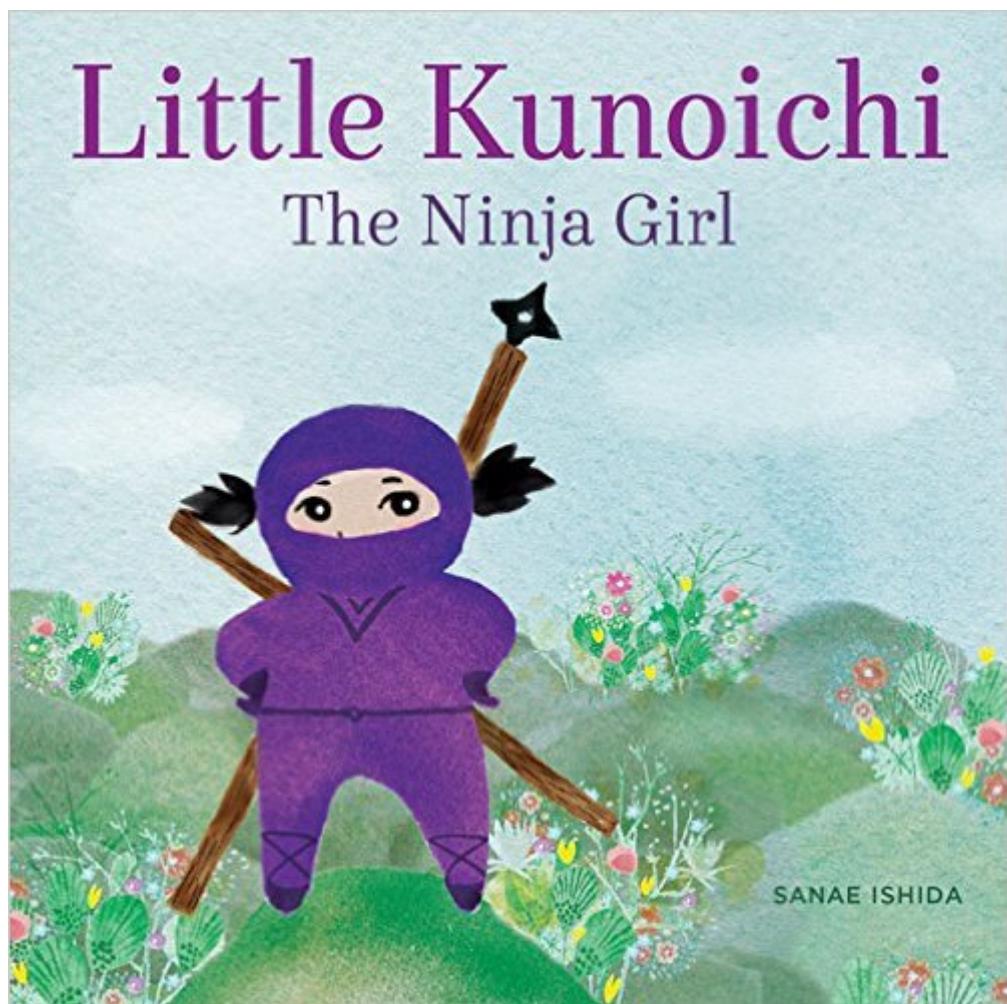


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# Little Kunoichi, The Ninja Girl



## **Synopsis**

Little Kunoichi, a young ninja in training, is frustrated. Inspired by tiny Chibi Samuraiâ™s practice and skills, she works harder than ever and makes a friend. Together, they show the power of perseverance, hard work, and cooperation when they wow the crowd at the Island Festival. Ninja skills donâ™t come easily to Little Kunoichi. She needs determinationâ "and a special friendâ "to unleash her power!

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## **Customer Reviews**

This book is a different kind of children's book. It's beautiful but that's not what I mean, For one thing, your child will have to really look deeper into the story and the illustrations. You can not read this quickly with your child, or at least you shouldn't. Each page has multiple opportunities for talking about what's happening, and what's on the page, and so it's more of an adventure than a straight linear read-aloud. For example, "Why does Kunoichi go to her hideaway?" "What is mindfulness?" That ought to be an interesting conversation with any child, and you probably would get as many different answers as children. There is SO much to see in this story. I love it too, and I'm 65. And the messages, and there is more than one, are just great. Little Kunoichi, is a really BIG girl at heart.

First I must say the quality of this book is excellent, it's printed on beautiful matte paper with a

gorgeous textured paper cover (no book jacket for my little to rip apart, yay!). The printing definitely allows Ms. Ishida's gorgeous watercolor illustrations to stand out. There's so much to like about this book, my favorite part is the subtle humor throughout, it's cheeky enough for an adult to appreciate but innocent enough for a child to get. A magical book filled with great life lessons. My daughter (18 months) especially loves the carnival scene where you find Kunoichi and her friend, this makes the book even more interactive and extends to the end papers as well and she loves trying to find the mini ninja. I hope this gets turned into a series and animation, because it's such a wonderful lesson about perseverance.

I just love this book! It is funny, has interesting art, offers an active and adventurous girl as the main character, has a nice message about needing to practice if you want to be good at something, and even has some educational value as the author has included some basic historical information in the back of the book.

Kunoichi is a ninja-girl-in-training who despite coming from a whole family of ninjas, isn't very good at it, but after watching Chibi Samurai, who isn't very good either, practicing persistently, Kunoichi decides to try that herself. This is an adorable little book about an adorable little girl learning the age old lesson that if you truly want to get better at something that is hard for you to do, you must practice, Practice, PRACTICE! In Japanese the word is "Shugyo", which the author interprets here as "training like crazy." Clever and charming artwork (also by the author) will appeal to both the little children it is aimed at and the adults who will likely be reading it out loud, and there are enough little jokes buried in the illustrations to keep adults chuckling through several re-readings: Kunoichi's entire family, including baby brother and pet bunny, wearing ninja outfits; failing hiding because of choosing to wear a bright red ninja outfit; snoring during "mindfulness" practice; "Today's Lesson: Excellence!, Sword Play, Karaoke"; etc.

Both me and my 5 year old son liked the illustrations very much. There is a map of the island with places marked - he just loves maps and was pouring over it for a long time, finding the places from the book. He was quite confused about the text of the book, though, and we had to try quite a few times before he would be able to listen to the end of the book without getting distracted. The message of the book is quite different from usual American "everybody is perfect the way they are" in most of the books. Apparently, you do need to practice like crazy before you get perfect at something. Training with a friend is even better. This is a great message.

There was a small island in the center of several others, but it wasn't just a regular old island, it was a super secret one. On this super secret island there was an amazing super secret village with a Samurai Lair, Wabi Sabi Huts, a Mystery Gazebo, a Dojo Institute, and other things like a Ninja School. Little Kunoichi was a ninja-girl-in-training who went to the Secret Ninja Girl's School, but it was no secret that she just wasn't a very good student. Not a very good one at all. Kunoichi fell on her face when she was using her nunchucks. Plop, flop! Kunoichi tied herself up with the climbing rope and stood out like a sore thumb when she was supposed to hide. Ninja! Not. The tears began to flow when she hid away in the bamboo forest and thought about her failure. All of a sudden she heard little Chibi Samurai, a little tiny boy who was perhaps not the best samurai-in-training. "Yah! Hah! Yah!" Chibi Samurai was working very, very, very, super hard. He was performing pushups, playing games and working on his mindfulness. It was practice makes perfect, but could Kunoichi learn from Chibi Samurai or would she always be a failure? This is a marvelous book about a not-so-super-great ninja girl children will love. Of course when we first meet Kunoichi, she is the worst little ninja in her class. She is practically flunking out because she simply can't manage to master any of the tasks needed to be an effective ninja. Kunoichi then realizes, as young readers will, when she sees Chibi Samurai at work that with a lot of practice (shugyo) she too can be a master ninja girl. There are several light touches of humor in the book that definitely give life to this inspirational tale. In the back of the book is more information about words, traditions, and ninjas.

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