

Lego Rock Band: Kid Friendly, Parent Approved
available for Xbox 360, PS3, and Wii

“Lego Rock Band makes me feel happy” says four year old Lindy, the backup vocalist and dancer in our house band *Princess Party*. Looking on, seven year old Katherine, our lead vocalist, can't help but smile and nod. With the rest of the family filling in on lead guitar, bass guitar, and drums, a 3 song set of Lego Rock Band is a great *family* experience.

In this most recent Rock Band title by Harmonix, kids come first. To start, all of the game's graphics are done with authentic Lego bricks and figures. The colors are bright and attractive, and the sets are all fantastic (think Pirate Ships, UFOs, Castles, etc...). Like previous titles in the series, instruments and clothes can be customized. In addition, Lego Rock Band includes a “Rock Den” that can be customized with hanging pterodactyls, floating pigs, suits of armor, and oodles of other Lego goodies. The songs are generally friendly and cheery, with *Crocodile Rock*, *All the Small Things*, *Walking on Sunshine*, and *Real Wild Child* getting plenty of playing time in our house. Beyond the look and feel, the gameplay has some new kid-friendly features. The old “No Fail” mode is now standard. Instead of kicking a band member out for poor performance, there is an automatic recovery that guarantees the player will get right back to playing. An additional *super-easy* difficulty level is great for younger children and beginners. While designed for kids, it is great for players of all ages, and this is Lego Rock Band's greatest strength.

The game has 45 songs, and with a current price tag of around \$40.00, that works out to less than a dollar a song. In addition, after I inserted the disc for the first time it immediately picked up my previously downloaded songs, as well as my Rock Band 1 songs that I had previously installed to the Xbox hard drive. It didn't import my Rock Band 2 songs (which I would have liked), and it filtered out any songs with a mature rating (which was fine by me). Thinking in reverse, for an additional \$9.99 license fee you can import all 45 songs into your Rock Band 2 library.

In the end, quality time with the whole family is a gift, and for *Princess Party*, Rock Band has been the gift that keeps on giving.

Dr. Anthony Betrus
with help from daughters Lindy and Katherine