



Sparking the Creativity Innate in Every Child

Learning About Learning

February 22, 2019

Where all creativity originates – what children need to understand:

We were created by Creativity Himself. Genesis 1:1

God created us (humans) in His image. Genesis 1:27

Each of us is wonderfully made. Psalm 139: 13-14

Madeleine L'Engle quote: *But unless we are creators, we are not fully alive.*

“Creativity” defined:

a novel product or process

that is a purposeful

form of self-expression

that benefits others

and involves imagination

and divergent thinking

How creative are YOU??? A 2-minute test of creativity.

Discovering your Child's Design – a framework by Ralph Mattson

“We are farmers, not architects” of our children.

What they like

How they play

How they tell stories

What they're drawn to

When you see creativity emerging, fan the flame.

Water the Growth – Ways to Promote Creative Thinking

Experiences:

- Give them space
- Don't always lead
- More free time and less screen time
- Stuff, space, and mess
- Nurture their interests
- Give gifts that inspire
- Don't evaluate

Conversation:

- Verbal ping pong
- Be process oriented, not product oriented
- Conversations with adults
- Allow children to disagree (respectfully)
- Ask “What if” and “Why” questions
- Encourage more than one solution

Activities and Places:

- Travel
- Theater
- Classes
- Local opportunities
- Activity museums
- Variety of music
- Family meals
- Reading aloud

“Practical” Creativity:

- When problems arise
- When a choice needs to be made
- When planning needs to be done
- When something goes wrong

No fear . . . no perfection . . . just discovery and delight

Observing is a creative act

Reading is a creative act

Learning is a creative act

Focus on the experience, not the product – ignore Pinterest

The Growth Mindset connection

Skills for School Success – creative activity helps develop these skills

- Confidence
- Curiosity
- Communication
- Social Intelligence
- Cooperativeness
- Intentionality

Creativity is not limited to artistic expression - What can students who think creatively do??

- 21st century skills: problem solving, innovation, communication, collaboration
- creativity makes us more flexible, adaptable, resilient

Creativity and Faith

- Inspired by truth and beauty
- Devotion and delight in a God we cannot see
- Reading scriptures – powerful visual images, storytelling and poetry
- Contemplative prayer
- Being led by God’s direction

Sir Ken Robinson on Creativity – YouTube video