

What is Creativity?

If you're an artist, writer, musician, photographer, or designer, you've likely been called a 'creative person' at some point in your life. Perhaps you have worked out a new idea to a problem that you thought was creative. Maybe you've been in a class and contributed a different perspective or different interpretation of a story. There are many ways to show creativity.

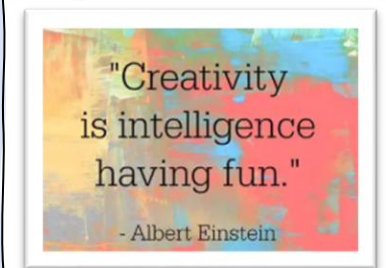
Simply put, creativity involves transforming your ideas, imagination and dreams into reality. When you're being creative, you can see the hidden patterns, make connections and come up with new ideas. Anybody can be creative, and you can 'teach' yourself to be more creative by altering your mind set. Creative people possess certain traits or skills. They are always asking questions, coming up with creative solutions to problems, and exhibiting a willingness to take risks. They are not afraid to be seen as different and will often think 'outside the box.' The ability to be creative and innovative is a highly valued workplace skill.

Christians and people of other faiths believe that God created us in his image and has given us many skills and gifts in creativity. We are encouraged to find and use the talents and abilities that we have been given so that they bring joy to ourselves and to others.

Why is 'Creativity' Important?

Creativity — using our imagination to come up with ideas or make something new — is one of the most valuable qualities human beings can have. Innovative thinking will serve our children well in whatever endeavours they choose.

The more we encourage creative activity during their formative years, the more comfortable and confident they'll feel in sharing their ideas with others.



Tips for promoting creativity at home:

1. Invest in open-ended toys. Open ended toys are timeless and limitless in their possibilities. Blocks, building sets, toy animals — anything that can be used in multiple ways.
2. Make sure supplies are easily accessible. Don't be terrified by the mess. If you give your children access to scissors, felt tips, tape and the recycling bin, you will be amazed at what can be created.
3. Give them free time and space. Creativity needs room to breathe. Ask questions about your child's creations.
4. Let them see you being creative. Let them see you try something new and experiment until you figure out what works. Let them see you make mistakes and learn from them. Let them see you enjoy your own creative process.
5. Offer encouraging feedback.

Children's Stories about Creativity

'Incredible You' by Nathan Reed, 'Beautiful Oops' by Barney Saltzberg, 'All the Things You Will Do' by Lucy Rowland, 'How to Catch a Rainbow' by Naomi Jones, 'Rosie Revere, Engineer' by Andrea Beaty, 'Unstoppable Me!' By Wayne Dyer, 'Black Artists Shaping the World' by Sharna Jackson.

