


Stimulating Curiosity and Creativity in Young Children

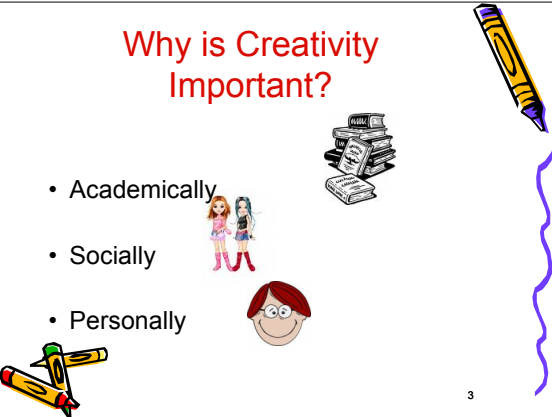
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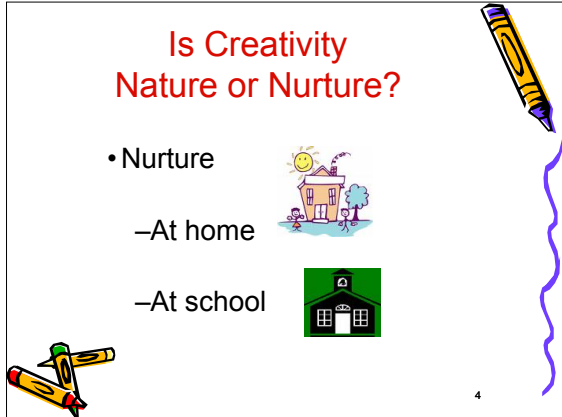
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Why is Creativity Important?

- Academically 
- Socially 
- Personally 

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Is Creativity Nature or Nurture?

- Nurture
 - At home 
 - At school 

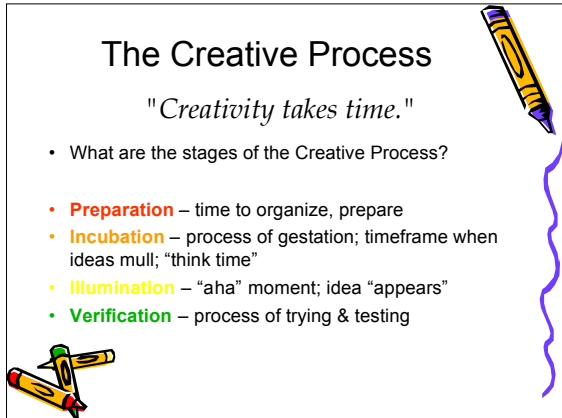
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Creativity is:

- ✓ fluency, flexibility and originality of thought
- ✓ openness to new experiences and ideas
- ✓ curiosity
- ✓ willingness to take risks
- ✓ sensitivity to aesthetic characteristics

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The Creative Process

"Creativity takes time."

- What are the stages of the Creative Process?
 - **Preparation** – time to organize, prepare
 - **Incubation** – process of gestation; timeframe when ideas mull; "think time"
 - **Illumination** – "aha" moment; idea "appears"
 - **Verification** – process of trying & testing

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Open Ended Activities

- What would happen if.....
- Thinking of product improvements/inventions
- Thinking of unusual uses for common objects
- Brainstorming



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Idea Squelchers

- We've never done it before.
- It won't work.
- Be practical.
- It will mean more work.
- It's not in the curriculum
- No one has thought of that before
- Don't rock the boat
- That is not our job!
- Warren (1974) Clark(1958)



SCAMPER Technique Bob Emberlee

- →Substitute
- →Combine
- →Add to, adjust
- →Modify, minify, magnify
- →Put to other uses
- →Elaborate
- →Redesign



SCAMPER with Music

- Listen to the first lullaby.
- Now listen to the second song.
- What elements of SCAMPER were used to change the song?

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SCAMPER a Fairy Tale

- Think of the fairy tale, "Cinderella"
- Use the Scamper model to creatively make changes to the tale.
 - Substitute a character
 - Add to the conflict
 - Redesign the setting
 - Minify the villain
 - Magnify the ending



Scamper at Home

- Redesign the arrangement of the furniture in your room to gain more floor space.
- "Put to other uses" junk from your garage---create Found Art project
- Elaborate on your creative story
- Combine collected junk to create a system that does work



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SCAMPER Questioning

- Ask questions with SCAMPER as a stem.....
 - What could you add to the recipe?
 - How can you minify the family noise during homework time?
 - How can you find another use for your discarded toys?

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Curiosity- Wondering

- "All learning progresses with this kind of natural curiosity about the world."
- Parents and schools need to nurture within children that the sense of being in a state of doubt and searching for answers is a positive form of learning.
- ".....educating the young to grow up to be thoughtful citizens who can use their imaginations to wonder, to speculate about possible futures, and to critique all these new ideas with the rigor of young scientists."

John Barell, *Developing More Curious Minds*

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Setting the Scene Building on Curiosity

- Nurturing these traits is about asking your children questions and then supporting them in their quest for answers.

Parents should:

- * Provide a secure, rich, environment
- * Pose questions and problems
- * Encourage exploration and respond positively

➤ Curiosity is:

– "a heightened state of interest resulting in exploration"

Four Ways to Stimulate Curiosity

- Questioning
 - 1. Ask questions about the parts, details of the whole
 - 2. What are the ideas behind it?
 - 3. What were the steps used in making it?
 - 4. How does this art relate to you and the world?

Examining a Painting



Appreciating an Artifact



Curiosity at Home



Stimulating Curiosity

- Use these questioning techniques to encourage discovery and investigation.
- Don't respond yourself or use it as a "telling" or "teaching" moment
- Begin developing research skills to answer the questions your child asks.

Deferred Manifestation

- Instilling a love for art, museums, opera begins at an early age.
- Inspiration to become a scholar can be supported with your modeled behavior.
- Enthusiasm for the arts, drama, science, can be transmitted to later in life.

In Summary

- Creativity needs to be nurtured at school and at home.
- SCAMPER is a tool to introduce to your child to access their creativity.
- Curiosity and Questioning need to be encouraged.

References

- Creativity is Forever, Gary A. Davis. Kendall/Hunt Publishing, Dubuque, Iowa. 2004
- Education of the Gifted and Talented, Gary Davis, Sylvia Rimm. Pearson Publishing, New York. 2004
- Developing More Curious Minds, John Banell, ASCD, Virginia. 2003