RECOGNIZING & SUPPORTING CREATIVE THINKING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

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the struggle is real
Creativity Framework

Environment

Process

Product

Person
## Behaviors Check List

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# Behaviors of Creative People

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“CREATIVITY NOW IS AS IMPORTANT IN EDUCATION AS LITERACY, AND WE SHOULD TREAT IT WITH THE SAME STATUS”

• WHAT IS CREATIVITY
• WHY IS CREATIVITY IMPORTANT
• HOW CAN TEACHERS SUPPORT CHILDHOOD CREATIVITY
• RESOURCES
WHAT IS CREATIVITY?

Ability To Produce Something New Through Imaginative Skill, Whether a New Solution to a Problem, a New Method or Device, or a New Artistic Object or Form.
BLOOM’S TAXONOMY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

HIGHER ORDER THINKING SKILLS

- Create
- Evaluate
- Analyze
- Apply
- Understand
- Remember

LOWER ORDER THINKING SKILLS

Produce new or original work.

Generate new ideas, products, or ways of viewing things.

Designing, constructing, planning, producing, inventing.
PUTTING CREATIVE IDEAS INTO USE

WHAT IS INNOVATION?

CREATIVE THINKING SKILLS → CREATIVITY, ORIGINALITY, INITIATIVE → INNOVATION
PEOPLE HAVE A PREFERENCES WHEN ENGAGED IN CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

Clarify  Ideate  Develop  Implement
WHY IS FOSTERING CREATIVITY IMPORTANT… ESPECIALLY FOR 21ST CENTURY LEARNERS?
INDUSTRIAL AGE 1760
INFORMATION AGE 1970
CONCEPTUAL AGE LATE 1990’S
TOP 10 SKILLS IN 2015
1. Complex Problem Solving
2. Coordinating with Others
3. People Management
4. Critical Thinking
5. Negotiation
6. Quality Control
7. Service Orientation
8. Judgment and Decision Making
9. Active Listening
10. Creativity

TOP 10 SKILLS IN 2020
1. Complex Problem Solving
2. Critical Thinking
3. Creativity
4. People Management
5. Coordinating with Others
6. Emotional Intelligence
7. Judgment and Decision Making
8. Service Orientations
9. Negotiation
10. Cognitive Flexibility

Source: These are the skills you need if you want to be headhunted. Bloomberg/Businessweek survey of 1,302 MBA recruiters. http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-01-05/the-job-skills-that-recruiters-wish-you-had
30 CIRCLES
GAME

TURN AS MANY OF THE BLANK CIRCLES AS POSSIBLE INTO RECOGNIZABLE OBJECTS IN THREE MINUTES.
DIVERGENT THINKING IS:

- Fluency
- Flexibility
- Originality
- Elaboration

J. P. Guilford
FLUENCY

ORIGINALITY

CREATIVE STRENGTH

ELABORATION
SO...HOW CAN WE SUPPORT CREATIVE THINKING?
Grow Your Own Creativity

- Avoid Premature Closure
- Tolerate Complexity
- Tolerate Ambiguity
Recognize We Have Two Biases Regarding Creativity:

- We have an “arts bias”. We tend to see creativity as an art related endeavor.
- We say we support creativity but we have a bias against children with creative behaviors.
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Creativity Fostering Behavior of Teachers

1. Delay judging children’s ideas until they have been clearly formatted

2. Take children’s suggestions and questions seriously

3. Help students to learn to cope with frustration and failure, so that they have the courage to try the new and unusual
Teacher Behavior Supporting: JUDGEMENT

Delay judging children’s ideas until they have been thoroughly worked out and clearly formatted.

- Have children explore their ideas before providing comment or input.
- Follow up children’s suggestions with questions to make them think further.
ASK QUESTIONS THAT INVITE CHILDREN TO THINK

Tell me about…
What do you think…
Tell me how you did…
I wonder what would happen if…
What made you decide to…
How do you think you could…
Tell me about the tools you used to do…
Can you think of a different way to…
Teacher Behavior Supporting: SUGGESTIONS & QUESTIONS

Take children’s suggestions and questions seriously

- Listen to children’s suggestions even if they are not practical or useful
- Follow up on children’s suggestions so that they know they are taken seriously
Teacher Behavior Supporting: FRUSTRATION

Help children to learn to cope with frustration and failure, so that they have the courage to try the new and unusual

- Encourage children who have frustration to take it as part of the learning process
- Encourage children who experience failure to find other possible solutions
Seed Challenge
Seed Challenge
“Creativity takes courage”
~Henri Matisse

“Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently.”
~Henry Ford

“I allow myself to fail. I allow myself to break. I'm not afraid of my flaws.” ~Lady Gaga
MANIFESTO FOR CHILDREN
BY: E. PAUL TORRANCE

1. Don’t be afraid to fall in love with something and pursue it with intensity.
2. Know, understand, take pride in, practice, develop, exploit, and enjoy your greatest strengths.
3. Learn to free yourself from the expectations of others and to walk away from the games they impose on you. Free yourself to play your own game.
4. Find a great teacher or mentor who will help you.
5. Don’t waste energy trying to be well-rounded.
6. Do what you love and can do well.
7. Learn the skills of interdependence.
INCREASE YOUR OWN CREATIVITY

BY THE AUTHORS WHO FOUNDED STANFORD’S D.SCHOOL AND IDEO
SUPPORT CHILDHOOD CREATIVITY

A well researched book that covers key concepts of creativity and children.
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Tom Gannon
www.BarronParkPreschool.com
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Make time to support creativity in yourself and others.

References


