

Creative Art Ideas and Resources

Creative Art experiences for young children allow children to explore and understand the world around them. Through art children learn the meaning of symbols that communicate ideas, experiences and feelings. Art allows the child to experiment and explore which assists their self-expression and enhances their self-esteem.

Given the opportunity, children can be creative with just about anything. The resources do not need to be expensive or fancy but there needs to be a wide range of resources to meet each child's individual need, likes and skills.

For young children creativity is a special and different way of viewing the world. There are no right or wrong ways of expressing this.

Food for thought

- Creativity is an attitude not an aptitude
- Creativity is a skill
- Creativity is a set of personality traits
- Creativity relies on differing sets of environmental conditions

Ideas for Creative Experiences

The following strategies are just some examples which may be applied to support children's creativity. This list is only the start and it is dependent on a variety of factors such as environment, length of time the child is in care, child's interest, likes, dislikes and skills already achieved.

- Celebrate creativity e.g. help children identify with creativity by asking questions and reading stories that fosters imagination.
- Value children's creativity e.g. allows children the freedom to think and act differently and accept their uniqueness.
- Provide time and space to be creative e.g. makes sure there are plenty of individual space to be creative and plenty of time to work. Excessive concern for constant cleanliness and neatness inhibits creativity.
- Provide toys and materials conducive to creativity e.g. open ended toys and materials to be used in a creative way rather than only one way extends the child's imagination.
- Acknowledge ideas, attempts without the child being rejected, criticised or having the pressure to conform.

- Weave creativity throughout the whole program e.g. creative arts is not just for the art table.
- Play materials need to be safe clean and sturdy. Uses of empty boxes, containers are great props for fostering creative play.
- Use natural materials such as leaves, twigs, water and sand.
- Avoid the use of foods in respect for families and their cultural beliefs.

The following books are just some examples of resource books available in the library for loan. These books provide new ideas for creative activities that acknowledge children's ideas, interests and culture.

- Braman A.N** *"Kids Around the World Create"* Jossey-Bass 1999 USA
(Provides creative ideas that help children to enjoy and explore diversity.)
- Isbell R.T** *"Creativity and the Arts with Young Children"* Thomson Delmar Raines S.C
Learning 2007
(Separate chapters within this book address specific areas of the creative arts e.g. Art, movement, music, drama and literature)
- Briggs P.S.** *"Early Childhood Activities for Creative Educators"* Delmar
Thomson Learning 2001
(Provides information and ideas for making over 150 unique learning experiences for children 2years – 8years. Provides step by step instructions. Includes a variety of activities from which children may choose to meet their own abilities, photographs for each activity showing an example of the end result encourages the use of recycled, household or inexpensive materials and emphasises hands-on active learning)

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