

Report to **PARENTS**

Cultivate Creativity in Children

Creativity helps students navigate the increasingly collaborative and information-rich world that awaits them once they leave school. It boosts students' academic performance, perseverance, social-emotional skills, self-confidence, and more. Use these strategies to cultivate your child's creativity.

Prioritize Imaginative Play

Flashy electronic toys are fun, but they don't offer children opportunities for open-ended, imaginative play. Have basic art supplies—paper, crayons, glue, and clay—at home, along with toys like building blocks, puzzles, or costumes for dress-up.

Limit Screen Time

Set limits on TV and iPad time. Make it a family affair: Pick a time each week for the entire family to put away phones and tablets and work together on a creative project.

Embrace Mistakes

Children who are afraid of failure are less likely to think creatively. Teach your child that mistakes are opportunities for growth. Be patient with your child—and model patience as they learn new skills or try a new project.

Encourage Curiosity

When your child shows natural curiosity by asking a lot of questions, embrace it! Ask, "What if" questions, and encourage your child to use their imagination.

Offer Constructive Feedback

Instead of offering general praise ("You're so smart!"), offer specific feedback that praises



your child's effort or the process they used ("You found a great way to paint that scene," or "I can tell you've been practicing.") Offer non-verbal praise (a hug or a thumbs-up) or encouragement by displaying your child's work in the home.

Take a Step Back

If a child feels like you're hovering, they might be less likely to try new ideas. Give your child space to play and create on their own. Wait until your child is finished with a project to ask what they have made.

Use Community Resources

Check your local library, museum, or community center for art classes or workshops to try new creative skills. Keep an eye out for poster or story contests offered by community organizations, too. Or team up with a friend to host an art playdate.