

Creativity (Grades 3-5)

For PurposeFull Families

EXPLANATION:

This month we are talking about Creativity! The dictionary would tell us that the primary use of Creativity is to create something artistic, but the definition we are using is much bigger than that:

Creativity: Using your imagination to create something or solve a problem.

Creativity is one of the most important skills for a better future because it is only by imagining new or improved solutions that it is possible to solve present problems. While more and more of the world becomes automated, Creativity is becoming one of the most sought after skills in the workplace because it helps us think beyond the box, innovate, and imagine a better way. We are born tremendously creative and, as we grow up, it is easy to “stop playing pretend” or exercising our imagination. This month encourages just the opposite! We must practice building the muscle of Creativity if we are going to use it to solve the big and little problems all around us. We will work together in new, unique ways. We will build things and break old patterns. We will CREATE and imagine the best version of ourselves and the world.

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- Walt Disney is reported to have been fired from a newspaper for “lacking ideas” and having “no imagination.” How is this possible? What do you think he did next?
- Embracing our Creativity sometimes takes Courage. What is one creative activity you have always wanted to try? What steps can you take to make it happen?
- What are some issues affecting our local or global community? How can Creativity help us address some of these problems?

QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK:

- Who is your most creative friend? What do they do that makes you think that they’re creative?
- Creative thinkers are able to identify problems and come up with new and unique solutions. It’s important to know your strengths and weaknesses to improve your Creativity. What is the hardest part of Creativity for you?
- What is a place that inspires your Creativity? What does it make you want to create or how does it help you see things differently?

APPLICATION:

Books:

- [*The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin*](#) by Julia Finley Mosca
- [*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, Young Reader’s Edition*](#) by William Kamkwamba
- [*The Dot*](#) by Peter H. Reynolds
- [*Westlandia*](#) by Paul Fleishman
- [*What Do You Do With An Idea?*](#) by Kobi Yamada

FOR YOUR READING:

- [*Creative Parenting*](#) by the Crayola Company
- [*Secrets To Raising A Creative Child*](#) on the Aha Parenting blog

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PurposeFULL
People

ACTIVITY:

Morning Magic: Set up a pad of paper or dry erase board in the space where your child gets ready or eats in the morning. Every day this month, have them exercise Creativity for at least 30 seconds to 3 minutes before they head to schools. Use simple prompts to give them some ideas: Draw a mix of two animals. Draw something without lifting your pen. Write a word in 5 different styles. Make a word into a picture. Draw a picture using only numbers. Create your own!

PURPOSEFULL PURSUITS:

Pirate Ship Balloon Launch

Build a mock Pirate Ship in your backyard to be your balloon launching target. From the porch, patio, or a decent distance away, launch water balloons at the ship to keep the bad guys at bay. Throw them at the ship by hand or use a Balloon Launcher to get more distance.

No water balloons around? Become a pirate for the day with your child and see how long you can make believe together. At the very least, try out the pirate accent for a day!

Toughness: 3

Time: 3

Type: Group

Civilization

In this challenge, every family member has a canister (or three) of PlayDoh or modeling clay. Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to create a civilization out of the clay.

No clay? That's okay! Gather at least 5 random items/supplies from around your home to see how much of a village or city you can build.

Toughness: 3

Time: 3

Type: Group

Community Choreography

Grab members of the family or neighborhood and have a dance battle! You can work in partners or teams and add an extra challenge by assigning the other team their song, a story, or character to include or a genre to dance out!

Not ready for your own choreography? Look at some tutorials online and learn a dance together. Or, ask your child to teach you a new move each day this week!

Toughness: 1

Time: 2

Type: Group

Family Fun Jar

Plan ahead for the "I'm bored" blues and create a family fun jar that is filled with creative activities. Grab a mason jar, popsicle sticks, and permanent markers. Brainstorm with your family about simple ideas to write on the sticks that can bring some creative fun to your family. The next time someone is feeling bored, grab a stick from the jar!

Creative ideas to help you get started: Build an indoor tent or fort, turn a cardboard box into something new, build a fairy garden, play "don't touch the ground" with a balloon, build an obstacle course, play "the floor is lava" inside your house, bake a favorite recipe, fly a kite, go to a park you have never been to, look at old photographs and talk about your favorite memories.

Toughness: 1

Time: 3

Type: Group