

The Challenge of the 21st Century: Nurturing Young Children to be Creative Communicators, Collaborators, and Critical Thinkers

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THE YOUNG CHILDREN IN YOUR CLASSROOM WILL BE LIVING, WORKING, AND BUILDING FAMILIES IN:

2040 2050 2060

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Challenges in the 21st Century

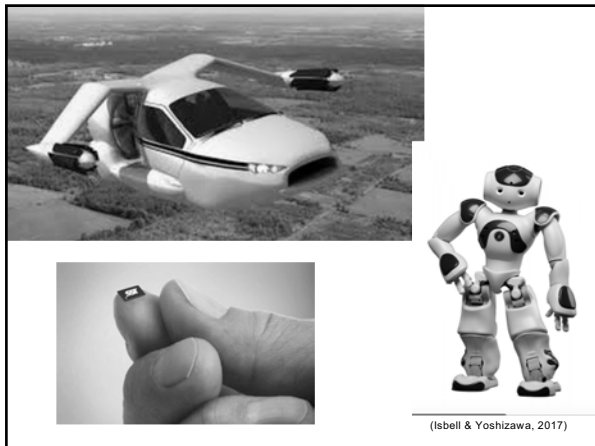
The children in our classroom will live in a very different world than today.

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Some Reasons

- Expanding amount of new information.
- Adapting to the changing environment.
- Increased understanding of brain development.
- New challenges that have never dealt with before.

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Researchers predict that in about 12 years' time there will be **200** new professions we have not heard of.

(Business Day, 13/09/2018)

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The Future of Jobs

- . Robot Counselor
- . Air Traffic Controller for Vehicles
- . 3D Organ/Body Part Creator
- . Trash Engineer
- . Memory Creator

(World Economic Forum, Sept. 2018)

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Why is
creativity
important in
today's
world?

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Why is Creativity Important for Today's Children?

- . Use varied ways to communicate
- . Collaborate with diverse people on complex ideas
- . Develop creative confidence to deal with issues
- . Accept and take risks to make innovations



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Torrance: A Pioneer in the Study of Creativity

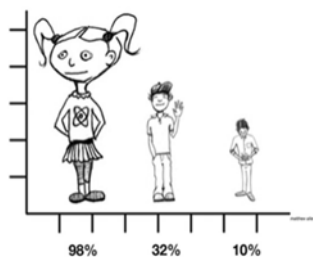
- . Studied young children in his research
- . Identified that 4-year old children were the most creative
- . Developed Torrance Test of Creativity



Dr. E. Paul Torrance

(Fox & Schirmacher, 2015; Torrance, 1965)

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Torrance's 4 Elements of Creativity

- Fluency: Generating many possibilities
- Flexibility: Making adjustments and adapting from one idea to another
- Originality: Forming new and unique possibilities
- Elaboration: Improving and extending original ideas and concepts



(Fox & Schirmacher, 2015; Torrance, 1965)

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*At a Time When Creativity
is Most Needed, We are
Seeing a Decline*

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WHY? WHY? WHY?

- Focus on test-taking
- Increased requirements and standards
- Divergent ideas not valued
- Less time for the arts: visual arts, music, and movement
- Less opportunity for play
- Increased stress and anxiety

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Research

- Torrance Creativity Test: Scores have decreased (1998 –2008)
- Children are less expressive, less talkative, and less imaginative.
- The most significant decrease was found in the Kindergarteners (5 – 6 years old),
- Young children generate fewer and unique ideas.

(Kim, College of William and Mary, 2017)

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“We are preparing people to work in factories--NOT thinkers or problem-solvers.”

“I believe that creativity should now be a priority for education in the world.”

(Robinson, 2011)



Sir Ken Robinson

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The Essential 4C's in the United States



- Creativity
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Critical Thinking (Problem Solving)

(Trilling & Fadel, 2009)

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Confidence

- Willingness to Try
- Persistence
- Making Mistakes
- Taking Risks



Golinkoff, R. M., & Hirsh-Pasek, K. (2016).

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Who has the potential to
be creative thinkers?

Young Children!

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CHARACTERISTICS of Creative Young Children:

Uninhibited

Filled with
Ideas

Confident in
their Abilities

Want to Do it
Their Way

Unconcerned
about What
Others Think

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Our Challenge:

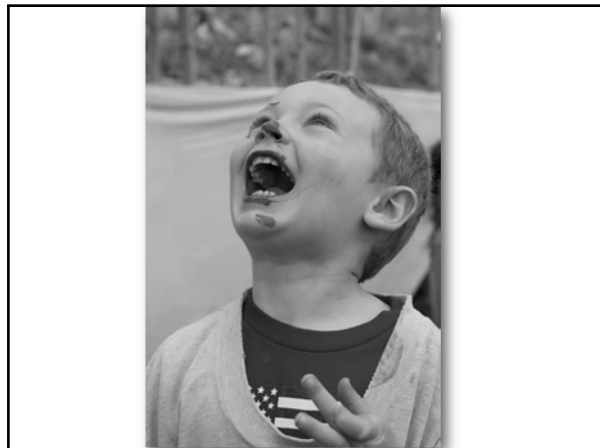
To support and nurture
children being creative

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Creative Thinkers need
Time to PLAY with:

- . Ideas
- . Materials
- . Peers
- . Possibilities

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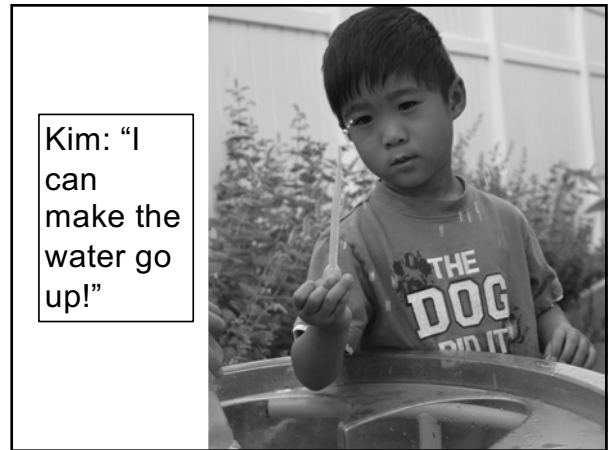
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Communicators

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Kim: "I can make the water go up!"

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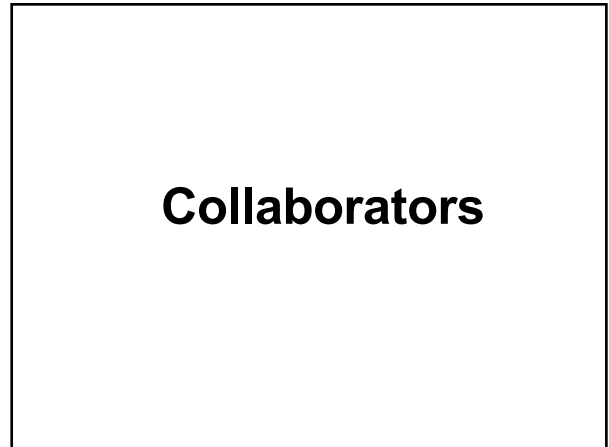
Inventive Language

Angie: "Did you ever notice that our legs also need clothes?"

Nayla: "I like your pink one!"

Angie: "It's called *leg-scarf*!"

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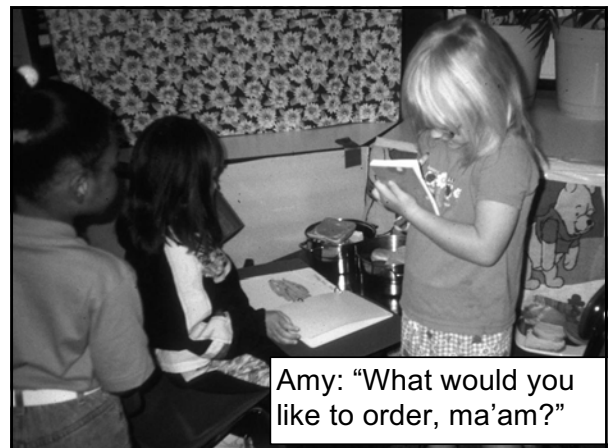


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Attempt to construct something unique

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Amy: "What would you like to order, ma'am?"

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Ali spills sand on the floor. She decides to sweep the floor on her own (independent responsibility).

Soon after, Ali's friends join in, and they decide to sweep as well (collaboration).



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Real Experiences: Collaboration



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Small Group: More Communication and Collaboration

More
chances to
talk

More
opportunities
to collaborate

More ways to
impact the
play

Peer tutoring
possibilities

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Small Group: More Language



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Music Center

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Creative Thinkers

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“My brain is full of ideas!!!”



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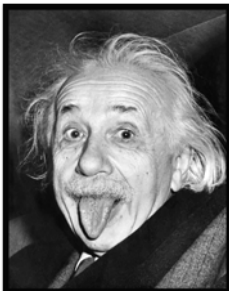
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**Creative Teacher
=
Creative Children**

(Isenberg & Jalongo, 2014)

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**Cultural
Creativity C**



**Personal
Creativity c**



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Questions for You!

- Do you ever forget the words to a song and you had to quickly invent a new lyric?
- What would you do when you begin an activity and one of your major materials is missing?
- When you are preparing for dinner, you notice that a major ingredient is missing. What do you do?

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YOU ARE CREATIVE!

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Characteristics of a Creative Teacher

- Playful with children
- Have a sense of humor
- Flexible
- Willing to take risks and try new things
- Enjoys working with creative children
- Appreciates that messy leads to order
- Understands the importance of continuing to grow

(Isbell & Yoshizawa, 2017)

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Creative Process or Product?

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Questions: Provocation

- Wait Time
- "Wh-" Questions
- Interactive
- Convergent or Divergent?
- Posing Questions Before and Return to Later
- Brainstorming Possibilities
- Reflecting and Revisiting

(Isbell & Yoshizawa, 2017)

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Supporting Children's Ideas



To help children plan what they're going to do

- Tell me about your plan.
- How would you...?
- What would happen next?
- How would you solve...?



When children are stuck or need encouragement or direction

- Keep going... you are on track.
- Are you stuck? How can I help?
- I noticed...
- How does this help...?



To encourage children to explain their thinking or go deeper

- Where do you go from here?
- What would happen if?
- How would you change...?
- Show me how...



To help children reflect on what they did and learn from it

- Would you want to do something different next time?
- When was the hardest time coming up with this idea?
- Tell me a story about your work?
- What were you thinking when you...?

(Isbell & Yoshizawa, 2017, p. 85)

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Providing Choices:

- Children decide what they will work on
- Determine which materials they will use
- Group or individual decides which projects to do, book to read, songs to sing, or find a way to solve problems
- Self-evaluation/Independent thinking

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Which Center Will You Work In Today?



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Open-ended
Materials: Many
Possibilities and
Combinations



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Communicating and Collaborating
with Children about their Ideas



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Kim: "I
made a
video
camera
and a
remote!"



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Offering Opportunities for Children
to Communicate their Unique Ideas



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Valuing Creative Efforts



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Projects: Following Children's Interest



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Visiting Artists - Violin -

June: "Can I try making a looong sound?"

Ms. Layne: "A long sound? Sure, give it a try!"



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Designing an Environment that Nurtures Creativity

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- Provide safe and caring places
- Present variety of materials and novel items
- Respect and encourage uniqueness
- Provide places to work and display creations
- Understand that mistakes are part of learning
- Encourage self-evaluation

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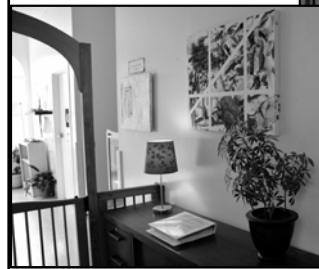


SELF-PORTRAIT
(5yr. old)

Image: Courtesy of Cutler Jewish School, SC

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Aesthetically Beautiful Environment



(Isbell & Evanshen, 2012)

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A Quiet
Place for
Thinking
and
Reflecting



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Unique Materials Presented in Novel Ways
to Stimulate Children's Creative Thinking



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Chris:
"Hey! This
one sounds
louder than
the other
one!"



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3-Dimensional Construction Using Unique and
Collected Materials



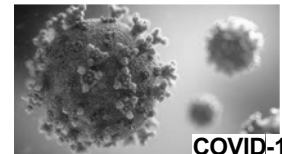
Tommy: "It's a big
city with lots of tall
and pointy
buildings!!!"

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What is our
challenge?

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**Coronavirus
Outbreak!!!**



COVID-19

Creative Solutions



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To **NURTURE** Young Creative Thinkers, Communicators, Collaborators, and Problem Solvers!



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drisbell.com/resources/

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