

Creativity and Play

Intro:

- How would you define creativity? (Thinking outside the box, or being able to express one's self very freely)
- How is creativity like tending a garden? (Creativity grows and the imagination is enhanced based on the amount of nurturing and attention we give it. If we tend and care for the plants, water them, weed them, stake them, feed them, etc. we see great results. Creativity is no different.)

Discuss:

Creative thinkers are needed everywhere, in all types of jobs and careers and even as parents and caregivers. If we are able to “think outside the box” who knows the results we might see.

As parents and caregivers we need to encourage the children in our lives to be imaginative and creative by exposing them to problem-solving situations especially in play, the opportunity to experience new things as well as try things a different way, and to be able to experiment with all types of art and craft materials.

Bottom-line: Creativity is important, not to mention it makes everything fun and more interesting.

Read: Article “The Importance of CREATIVITY and How to Foster it” and complete a summary of the article to refer back to later.

<http://www.loveplayandlearn.com/2012/07/the-importance-of-creativity-and-how-to-foster-it.html>

One of the most creative writers of children's books, in my opinion, would be Dr. Seuss. To get you inspired for our project I want you to listen to his book titled “Oh, the Thinks you Can Think!” –you tube style:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3kfSQJ4avM>

Activity: Put students in small groups (2 or 3) depending on class size and give them containers of play-doh and the “The Play-Doh Evaluation Sheet”. You may use your PIES notes from the article and your notebook to help you complete the assignment.

Introduce this project by telling students to imagine that....

a lost manuscript of short stories by Dr. Seuss has been discovered. Help is needed to create some original characters for this new collection of short stories. After making this character, students will answer the following questions on the evaluation worksheet about working with play-doh and then see Mrs. Graybill for the Dr. Seuss Lab Chart.

Have students take a picture of their creation for their presentation as play-doh does not keep well overnight.

Present creations and stories to the class as their creations are displayed on the SMARTBOARD.

Note: Here is a link to an ANIMOTO I created of class creations.

<http://animoto.com/play/w201N0JqgA8TluXwZ4ftSA>

Rubric:

Criteria	Present	Not Present
Completed Evaluation (20)		
Creative/Original Creation (10)		
Completed Chart (10)		
Oral Presentation (10)		
Total Points Possible (50)		

