

# CREATIVITY

**Creativity** is a highly valued 21st century skill. You can keep children's natural curiosity and confidence alive with common, everyday experiences. The arts are a great way to foster creative thinking and learning in school and at home.



## The 4 Cs— Essential Skills All Students Need to Succeed

### Creativity

Discovering novel ways to think, learn and do

### Critical Thinking

Using original ideas to solve problems

### Communication

Expressing thoughts and feelings effectively

### Collaboration

Working in partnership with others toward a common goal

*plus*

### Arts-Infused Education Advocacy

Championing the integration of the arts across the curriculum and school-wide to build the 4 Cs

## What Is CREATIVITY?

- Creativity means “coming up with new ideas that work.”
- Creativity is a “habit of mind” for looking at situations in new ways and creating new ideas.
- Creativity is “thinking outside the box” or “divergent thinking.”
- Creativity is the act of making connections between seemingly unrelated ideas to make something new and appropriate.
- Creativity means finding new ways to solve problems and interact with the world.
- Creativity is a cycle, an evolving thinking process, that moves from inspiration to exploration, creation and evaluation.
- Creativity is the ability to see what’s not there and create something new.
- Creativity is more than just brainstorming new ideas. Part of the creative process is deciding which ideas work best for the particular situation or problem. Every artist edits, evaluates and revises, building on feedback and inspiration from others.



# 4 Cs of CREATIVITY

## CURIOSITY

Creativity starts with curiosity.

Children are naturally curious.

## CONFIDENCE

Confidence is an essential condition for the free flow of original ideas.

Too often children lose confidence in their creative abilities as they grow up. As creativity expert Ken Robinson says in his book, *The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything*, if you ask a group of kindergartners if they think they are creative, every hand will go up. If you ask a group of sixth graders the same question, only a few hands will go up. How do we keep that creative confidence from eroding?

## COMMON, EVERYDAY EXPERIENCES

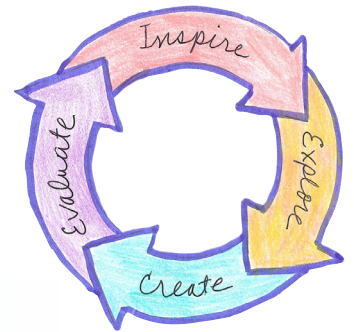
Artists aren't the only people who are creative.

Everyone has to come up with creative solutions to everyday challenges.

## CREATIVE CYCLE

Creative people go through an evolving process to develop, produce and refine their work.

Everyone can learn to use the creative cycle: Inspire–Explore–Create–Evaluate.



## Tips for Educators and Parents

### Spark Creative Thinking

- Ask “What if ...” questions to spark interest in new topics.
- Ask open-ended questions that have many right answers.
- Ask children to explain their thinking.
- Be a role model by showing your own curiosity about the world.

### Foster Creative Expression

- Encourage imaginative play, inquiry and discovery in common, everyday experiences.
- Stimulate learning through and with the visual, literary and performing arts—music, theatre, dance and film.
- Recognize original thinking.
- Show children your own willingness to try different forms of creative expression.

### Build Creative Confidence

- Use the Creative Cycle to inspire children, help them explore their ideas, and teach them how to transform their ideas into creative expressions and then how to evaluate their work.
- Provide colorful, child-friendly materials to make the Creative Cycle come alive in everyday, fun experiences—not just as a special event or rare treat.
- Celebrate perseverance and creative solutions.

