



Activities to Stimulate and Develop Creativity in Children and Youth

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- * Find other uses for common objects: “What else could a spoon be used for?”
“What else could be done with a chair besides sitting on it?”
- * Think of unusual ideas—“Where are some common places to find water that most people would think of?” “Where are some unusual places to find water?”
- * Think of alternative ways to solve a problem from a book or story. “How else might Goldilocks have found out which porridge was ‘just right’ without tasting all of them?”
- * Put yourself into a book or story as one of the characters. “Who would you be? What would you do in the story? How would you change the story?”
- * Think up questions about topics of interest to you that can not be easily answered. “What questions could you ask about _____ that you do not know the answer to?” Star your five favorite questions. Set aside an afternoon to find the answers to these questions.
- * Read stories about the lives of interesting people. “What do you admire about the person? Do you have any of the same characteristics or traits as the person in the book?”
- * Compare and contrast objects and ideas. “How are a suitcase and a mouse alike? How are they different?” “How is your favorite song like your bed? How is it different?”
- * Look for patterns in objects and nature. “What patterns do you see in the houses in your neighborhood?” Describe the patterns you find in your backyard or walking down the sidewalk. Make up some patterns of your own that could be used in your room or around your house.
- * Try new things. Think of something you would like to do or learn how to do. Plan a way to experience it or learn how to do it. Plan to try one new thing every month. These can be small things such as volunteering to help a neighbor or friend do a job that is new to you or joining a new club at school.
- * Express your ideas and feelings on paper, in a painting, in music, in a sculpture, with a song, or in a poem. This does not have to be shared with anyone. It can be just for you.
- * When you hear a new idea, think of the positive things about it first. “What are three good things about this idea?” “What are three positive things about doing it this way?”
- * Make plans and follow them. Plan an interesting afternoon with your friends. Plan something special for each person in the group. Follow your plan. How would you change the plan another time?

