



## Fostering creativity in young minds!

Creativity seems to be a topic of interest in the last few years. The ability to create seems to be (in some or most cases) ironically diminished with the arrival of technology. How could that happen? Well, when you have developing minds spending a lot of hours in front of the screen, low incidence of social interactions due to parents and families busy schedule (or spending time in front of the screen on their own), plus children attending schools where they are scheduled to go from one teacher-directed activity to another one just to complete a task....creativity tends to diminish. In most instances is not merely the arrival of technology, the problem is when screen time is used as the main kind of interaction and creativity as a sense of an expression is not fostered.

“Instead, it may be that experience itself has changed our brains so that we perceive and interpret the world in a certain way. Once the neural wiring occurs, it is difficult to interpret the world in any different way. Once we have a representation that works, and instances mount up that confirms that representation, it becomes increasingly difficult to change it. When we are quite sure something is true, we are less likely to be willing, or even able, to change our minds about it, and this also seems to be true of our neural representations.” — Alison Gopnik,

Are we staging the environment to encourage children to perceive and interpret the world in the same way we do? It may seem a natural thing to do...preparing our children to understand the world around them. However, they may only need the foundation to create their perspective. How do we balance the importance of critical foundations at the same time we foster the ability to create following a conventional and unconventional path? As educators/parents, how can we provide young minds with enough amount of fundamental skills to be able to successfully create, invent, and innovate ideas on their own?

### Here are some ideas you can implement in your classroom or at home.....

- Start by providing open materials in all the classroom learning areas
- Scaffold their critical thinking process when they are engaged.
- Set up open activities with a variety of materials including recyclables, natural, conventional, and unconventional items.
- Allow them to find a different function and description. Foster their imagination and solutions even if they seem unusual or “impossible”.
- For dual language learners, allow them to make connections in their home language and support their acquisition of a second language by linking concepts to home experiences.
- Do you need staff development sessions? Visit [mariateresaruiz.com](http://mariateresaruiz.com)

*“Imagination is more important than knowledge.” – Albert Einstein.*

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