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**Creative Kids Make Intelligent Adults**

**By Alberta Johnson**

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Creative Kids Make Intelligent Adults: A Must in the Business World  
by Alberta S. Johnson  
<http://www.k6artlessonplans.com>

Over and over, research shows that kids who receive art lessons while they are young become more imaginative and creative adults. As you may know, creativity is an essential part of intelligence, and is often used as a gauge for measuring IQ.

With increasing demands being placed upon schools, teachers, and youth groups to educate our kids in the three R's, education in the arts has begun to suffer in many areas of the country in favor of the "more important" or "more practical" subjects.

What people need to understand is that art education in schools IS important, and in fact essential to form well-rounded adults. In the business world, for example, people who are creative are much more likely to find success. Creativity allows for innovation, a vital characteristic in today's business executive. To stay ahead of the game, for example, a business must be able to initiate and adapt to change. Both of these things are impossible without creativity, which is best learned at an early age.

Any successful business starts with an idea, and a good idea is innovative, different, and creative. It speaks to a certain audience and makes people stand up and take notice. If you lack the creativity to come up with such an idea, you're not likely to do very well.

Now, consider some of the most memorable marketing campaigns in recent history. What do they all have in common? Creativity; creativity that must be instilled at an early age, and is most effectively taught in school.

Art lessons are very time consuming to prepare, and many teachers feel that they lack the artistic ability or creativity to teach art. The reality is however, that they really don't need to be creative geniuses themselves to teach art in their classrooms.

Educators who feel that help is needed can turn to plenty of outside sources for aid. By doing just a little bit of homework themselves, teachers and parents can find people, groups, and even companies who are ready and willing to come to the rescue. Taking advantage of this help can save hours of time and energy, and provide a much-needed educational benefit.

Author Alberta S. Johnson is an art educator who understands the importance of art lessons in schools. Her company, K6ArtLessonPlans.com makes fully-planned art lessons available to educators and parents on a weekly basis. For more information, see <http://www.k6artlessonplans.com>

Alberta Johnson has been teaching k-6 gr. art for over 28 years. Her web site makes fully-planned art lessons, with national goals, assessments, and color photos available to educators and parents on a weekly basis. For more information, visit <http://www.k6artlessonplans.com>

### **How to Raise Creative Kids**

**By Susan Stump**

"Where did he come up with that?" Kids often amaze us with their imaginative ideas, and we should give ourselves a pat on the back for playing a role in this development. Innovative thinking is essential for success in school and in life, and it's our job as parents to nurture our kids' innate desire to be creative. Inventive play fosters original thinking, an asset when children are confronted with new situations. By providing activities that use their creativity and imaginations, we are giving our children an important tool to deal with life down the road.

Give them ideas.

Children come up with things to do on their own, but we also need to provide them with new ideas of interesting activities. Think back to what you did as a kid. Did you write a diary, create elaborate puppet shows, or sing and dance for relatives? Share ideas from your own childhood experiences. Offer creative writing ideas like writing an episode for a favorite television show or writing a new ending to a

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favorite story. Craft projects offer another outlet for inspiring imaginations. Craft kits, especially those from Curiosity Kits and ALEX, offer a wide variety of unusual and fun projects. They've brought us a long way from the sock puppets of our youth. These manufacturers offer ideas and supplies to make such things as scrapbooks, powerballs, soaps, candy, sun catchers, dolls, planes, dinosaurs, jewelry treasures, and lots of decorative items. Kids can gather ideas from the instructions, and then give the projects their own unique touches.

Keep ideas fresh.

Pick up any parenting magazine and you'll find lots of ideas to get those creative juices flowing in your kids. Search the web and check out craft stores. Keep a journal or file for magazine clippings and ideas as you find them. Stockpile so that you'll know how to answer the whiny "I'm bored" call from your kids.

Give them freedom.

Once you've given your kids some suggestions and supplies, step back and see which they choose and where they go with them. This unstructured play time gives kids an opportunity to stretch their creative muscles. Watch as they incorporate your ideas and branch out on their own.

Set an example.

Chances are, if you are a creative person, your child will be too. You display creativity in your everyday activities like when you reason with a disgruntled child, change lyrics to songs, and maybe even do some interpretive dancing to entertain a toddler. Your children see your silliness and it rubs off on them. You surely use creativity to juggle your and your family's schedules. It's a great idea to point out to your kids how you use creativity in your daily life.

As parents, we always try to do the very best for our kids and provide opportunities that will help them mature into intelligent, capable adults. Nurturing their creative spirits helps them along this road. With their well-developed imaginations, maybe they'll turn it into a yellow brick, pink polka-dotted road with sparkles!

Susan Stump is the mother of two children and the owner of ChildCrafter, Co. – Craft Kits and Subscriptions that Inspire a Child's Imagination. This work-at-home-mom offers a great selection of creative craft kits from ALEX, Quincrafts, and Curiosity Kits from her catalog and website

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How to Raise Creative Kids  
Luggage For Kids  
Enjoyable Halloween Party Games  
Top Ten Ways to Raise Emotionally Intelligent Children  
Spare the Child, Ditch the Rod

How Nice Guys, Shy Guys and Good Guys Finish First!  
The Alphabet of Birds  
147 Killer Epublishing Strategies  
Take Control of Alcohol  
Scams Exposed



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