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How to Raise Creative Kids

By **Susan Stump**

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"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 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.

How to Raise Creative Kids

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

<http://www.childcrafter.com>

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childcrafter@yahoo.com

Luggage For Kids

By Jerry Smith

Traveling with children is never easy and sometimes it's not even fun. There is help on the way to alleviate this problem. Luggage makers have created kid-sized luggage in bright colors and unique designs.

Like adult luggage kid luggage has wheels. Some brands of kids luggage have wheels that are gender based. Your children will feel grown-up pulling their own bags. Besides watching kids pull their luggage

is cute.

Included in kids luggage are backpacks with animals that `hug' your child. Backpacks and other luggage for kids are bright colors, cartoon characters, sports themes, flowers, dance, music, and space. Luggage can be personalized with their names. There are bags for boys in the shapes of cars.

Styles of luggage for kids include duffel bags, sport bags, backpacks with pockets for a radio or CD player. There are tote bags that will hold your child's toys and/or books. Other themes are flowers, animals, and camouflage design.

Kids luggage are sized for kids and designed for their needs. The kids luggage is also a way to ease your burden as they have their own carry on bag. Having kids use their own luggage can help them to care for their things and allows them to have fun as well.

Many backpacks and other luggage for both adults and kids have holders for bottles and have waterproof snack pouches. There is also an element of convenience with kids luggage. Be creative and have fun traveling with your child or children.

Jerry Smith can help you. Find out how thousands of people have been helped with the advice and information. Visit this link for details:

Luggage

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