



News Release

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Family & Consumer Sciences
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Families the strongest link

Encouraging Creativity in Children

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With the holidays approaching, children and families will be spending more time at home. Parents and caregivers may want to consider some ideas to encourage creativity in children. This will keep children actively involved in the learning process as well as constructively occupied. Parents can also use the opportunity to gain new information about their children. Projects, discussions, sharing of ideas, crafts, and games can provide children with the chance to explore the world and the people around them in unique ways.

Promoting creativity in children doesn't have to be complicated, but an understanding of children's developmental abilities and an appreciation for a child's efforts are important. Here are some suggestions to put into practice:

- Model perseverance, creative thinking, and creative expression.

- Let children know that novel, innovative, and unique approaches to a problem are valued.
- Suppress the impulse to accomplish tasks for children.
- Encourage children to complete a project and to enjoy the process of learning.
- Allow the child to try out alternative methods or techniques to create a project, and explore any possible problems by discussion of the steps and responsibilities associated with completion. Help children recognize their own strengths and weaknesses.
- Provide a stimulating environment that appeals to the child's developmental age level abilities and skills. Parents can encourage children to try new methods through exploration by providing a variety of materials, books, and games, the opportunity to experiment with these materials, and by reinforcing the child's progress and development.

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FactSheet

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