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Nurturing Creative Children

By Dr. YKK Yew Kam Keong, PhD

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About The Author

Dr.YKK Unzips Your Mind To Make Your Mind bloom With Creativity

Dr. Yew Kam Keong, (Dr. YKK) is the father of four wonderful and lovely children, two girls and two boys.

He was one of the eight international creativity advisers to the famous toy company Lego, Denmark to spearhead a global non-profit project *The Next Generation Forum* to promote creativity to the children of the world.

Dr. YKK has created many programs for parents, teachers and children to promote creativity and inventions, among which are:

- ☺ Creative Parenting Workshops
- ☺ Students Invention Workshops
- ☺ Young Inventors Camp

He was:

- ✓ The founder president of the Invention and Design Association of Sarawak (IDEAS).
- ✓ Founder member of Malaysian Mensa
- ✓ Founder member of the Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS) and
- ✓ Former adviser to the president of the International Federation of Invention Associations (IFIA) based in Geneva, Switzerland.

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Unesco on Creativity

All human beings have a need and a capacity to create. From weaving to websites, they seek outlets for artistic self-expression and for contributing to the greater community. The encouragement of creativity from an early age is one of the best guarantees of growth in a healthy environment of self-esteem and mutual respect, critical ingredients for building a culture of peace.

But creativity does not occur in a vacuum. It must be nurtured, allowed the freedom to exist and grow legally protected, and it must not be repressed or censored. UNESCO seeks to foster a social and legal environment that is conducive to creative activity and critical thinking in all its forms. It encourages both individual creativity, with its roots in traditional or popular culture, and industrial creativity, which draws its force from social and economic institutions that stimulate market activity and innovation.

UNESCO : United Nations Education , Scientific & Cultural Organization

Source : <http://www.unesco.org/culture/creativity>

Why Nurturing Creative Children is So Important

"The success of early childhood education will depend on whether it can connect the learning environments of home and school. It should be built on the interaction and communication between children, teachers and parents." ***Carla Rinaldi***

"To give a fair chance to potential creativity is a matter of life and death to any society." ***Arnold Toynbee***

"From now on the big fortunes in this world will be made by selling thoughts instead of things." ***George Gilder***

Preface

This book is especially written for parents and teachers who want to nurture their children's potential so that they can live happy and fulfilling lives. It is based on the knowledge and experience that I gained as one of the eight international creativity advisers to the famous toy-maker, *Lego* on its global project *The Next Generation Forum* to promote creativity to the children of the world.

I am also fortunate to have as my mentor, *Prof. Fred Amram*, *Morse Alumni Distinguished Professor of Creativity and Communication at the University of Minnesota, USA*.

Being a father of four children too, helps in gaining the practical experience necessary to write this book.

I certainly owe a debt of gratitude to the parents who attended my *Creative Parenting* seminars as they contributed positively to some of the ideas shared in this book.

Most parents and teachers think that the single most important factor for success in life is getting good grades in school. Consequently they devote a considerable amount of energy and resources to equip their children to achieve academic excellence.

This, in turn, exerts tremendous pressure on their children to obtain good grades in school thereby unwittingly depriving their children of the joy of learning and perhaps even a happy childhood.

But are good grades a reliable indicator for success in life? Not necessarily so because, more than ever before in this technology-based and highly connected world, good thinking skills - particularly creative thinking - is the most prized asset for success.

If your children cannot think well, they can be easily be replaced by computers and machines in their working lives.

Then, of course, there's the question of how to nurture creativity in our children. At a time when standardized examinations demand for prescribed answers, when our children have little time to play, to daydream and to explore the world around them, it's easy for parents who

value creativity to feel at a loss of what to do. It is my intention that this book will act like a compass to provide a sense of purpose and direction to you.

However, unlike a compass, the path is never straight.

You will have to use your own discretion and judgment as a parent or teacher to decide on what to accept and what not to accept, for every child is unique.

My youngest daughter Li Ching who is twelve now, gives me the greatest joy of fatherhood. She constantly challenges me to come out with my own creative stories according to her specifications during bedtime. The stories could be about her adventures with fairy tale characters like Snow White and Cinderella, or how animals became what they are, for example, how do giraffes get their long necks? Or, how do fruits take on their present form? For example, how did the durian fruit get its thorns? The stories that I have told her during the past six years could easily fill an encyclopedia! At times, I would have to invent games to play with her. While traveling in the car, she would insist for me to come out with riddles based on the things that she can see both inside and outside the car.

Bearing the above in mind, this book is divided into four sections:

1.] 30 Tips For Nurturing Creative & Happy Children

Each of these 30 tips provide an explanation on why it nurtures creativity, followed by an activity that you could do with your children to stimulate their creativity. Most the activities do not cost you any money and only a handful may cost you a few dollars. Your biggest investment in nurturing your children is the time that you spend with them.

2.] The Creative Mischief's Of Little Kamal

These are a series of stories about the creative mischief's of a typical little boy named Kamal. The stories are to demonstrate to you that all young children are inherently creative. If you observe your children in their daily dealings with you, I have no doubt that you will find creative mischief's too. Do not get angry with them but smile in satisfaction that you have creative children. It is indeed one of the greatest joys of

parenthood .

3] [In Praise Of Black Sheep](#)

This short article by Johann Christoph Arnold enlightens us on the potential that the so-called problem children possessed. These children are actually unpolished diamonds and it is up to you as parents and teachers to polish them. This article is followed by examples of problem children who went on to become highly successful and prominent individuals. Please treat your so-called problem children with compassion and understanding and nurture them so that their inner diamond will ultimately shine through.

4] [YKK Quotes On Nurturing Creative Children](#)

These quotes were extracted from books and articles written by educators, child psychologists , prominent people and parents. They are not meant just to be read and forgotten but rather to be reflected upon.

They are truly gems of wisdom on nurturing creative and happy children.

Please do not read them all at one reading, and you need not read them in any particular order. Just pick the ones you like (probably two or three), and relate them to your practice of raising your children.

You need not agree with everything that is being quoted. I believe that just reflecting on them will make you a better parent or teacher.

My mentor, Prof. Fred Amram reminded me that the approach is more important than the activity. How an activity is done and taught is more important than what the activity is and more important than the product.

This book is the first in a series of books that I will be writing about creativity for children, parents and teachers.

My next book will be about creative activities for secondary school students that could be carried out in schools.

This will be followed by creative fun at home and creative learning of basic scientific principles.

I value your feedback. If your comments or sharing of ideas or information are incorporated into any of many forthcoming books, you will get a personally autographed copy as a token of my appreciation for your

contribution. You can email me at yewkk@yahoo.com.

You could also write to my company Mindbloom for my personal attention.

Thank you for permitting me to share my ideas with you. May this book have a positive impact on your life and those of your children

Yew Kam Keong

CE & Chief Mind Unzipper

Mindbloom Sdn. Bhd.

29 Feb 2004

Tips for Nurturing Creative and Happy Children

Tip No.1 - Affirmations

"If the right brain abilities are developed between the ages of zero to six, they will be with a child for life. As such, pulling out the brain's natural abilities should take priority over other needs, so that the child need not suffer at all in learning anything in the future." **Makato Shichida**

It is very important to plant positive thoughts and self-confidence into our children's minds. The best time to do this is just before they go to sleep at night and waking them up in the morning.

For example, if your children are going to sit for a math test, whisper to him or her (preferably in their left ear) the following message for several days just when they are drowsy and just about to fall asleep: "You love math and will do very well in your test," or something similar to this.

Repeat this early in the morning just when they are on the verge of waking up.

Question: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response: When your child is sleepy or drowsy, his brain is in the theta brain-wave mode. In this state, his right brain or creative brain is dominant. This means that he will be much more receptive to your positive messages. The left ear is a much more effective pathway to the right brain. That's why you should whisper in his left ear.

A word of warning is important here. Negative words have similar effects so be careful in your choice of words.

Mind exercise 1

A set of alphabet cubes is great for learning words. Get a set and ask your child to spell some simple words. Now, deliberately remove the letter "T" and ask your child to spell the word "CAT".



Answer 1: A creative solution would be to use several cubes to construct the letter "T" itself.

Tip No. 2 - Choosing the Right Toys

"Children who are allowed to explore, regard a toy as a toy or tool; a chance to be active, along the lines of 'what can I do with this toy?'. Those children will manipulate the tools to create stories and subsequently something which is meaningful to them." **Maria Montessori**

Apply the following guidelines when choosing the right toys for your children:

- ? • Are they safe for your children's age?
- ? • Does it allow your children to add their imagination when playing with it?
- ? • Is it fun?
- ? • Is it versatile?
- ? • Does it challenge the children?

Frederich Froebel, who created the world's first kindergarten in 1837, used physical objects such as balls, building blocks and sticks to help children explore physical shapes and spark their imagination through open-ended play.

Children attached symbolic meaning to their creations.

Question 2: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 2: Toys are very important for mental development. The toys that a child plays with can unlock the door to creativity and learning. Each new experience helps to turn the key to unlock more creativity and learning.

Choosing the right toys is very important.

In my opinion, the best guide for choosing the right toy is the book by Dr. Stevanne Auerbach (affectionately known as "Dr. Toy") , "Dr. Toy's Smart Play - How to Raise a Child with a High P.Q. (Play Quotient)"

According to Dr. Toy, "Playful people are less stressed, more inquisitive, more open to new experiences, more creative, and more willing to take risks. Children with high P.Q. are willing to share their enthusiasm for play with their siblings, friends and family."

Mind exercise 2

How do you tie a knot on your handkerchief without letting go of the two ends?

Answer 2: Hold the two ends of the handkerchief with your arms folded. Unfold your arms and the knot is tied!



Tip No. 3 - Music

"Music is the super-highway to the learning and memory system." **Terry Wyler Webb**

When our children are studying or doing some deep thinking, switch on Baroque music. The music serves to tune their brainwaves, release tension and has a general effect of producing calm and of relaxing the mind.

This is particularly important in our modern living environment as we are constantly bombarded by all sorts of noise.

Question 3: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 3: Music can be used to enhance our children's creative abilities, improve their health, increase their intelligence and enable them to enjoy good health and emotional stability.

This claim was made by Don Campbell, an internationally known musician, educator and author of the book, "The Mozart Effect: Tapping The Power of Music To Heal The Body, Strengthen The Mind and Unlock The Creative Spirit'.

Music provides nutrition for mind-body development. Learning to play music and developing rhythm is even better than just listening to it.

An earlier book entitled, "Superlearning" by Sheila Ostrader and Lynn

Schroeder describes many experiments that demonstrated the correlation between creativity, learning and music.

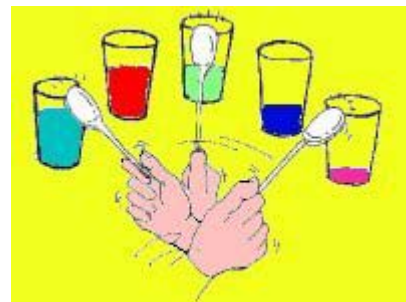
The Bulgarian scientist Georgi Lozanov did the pioneering work in this area. Basically, the right music was able to tune the brainwaves to the desired mode for creativity and learning.

The most effective type of music is Baroque music which includes: Mozart, Vivaldi, Bach and Handel.

Mind exercise 3

How do you produce different musical notes using a set of glasses?

Answer 3: Fill a set of 5 or more glasses (preferably crystal or other thin glasses) with different amounts of water. Strike the glasses' rims gently one by one with a metal spoon. They will each make a different sound, because the frequency of the sound waves depends on the distance from the rim of the glass to the surface of the water.



Tip No. 4 - A Trip to the Supermarket

"When it comes to children, parental involvement is a must. This is because children often won't know they have an interest in something until after their parents bring it to their attention." **John Andersen**



On your next trip to the supermarket, play the following game with your children. Tell them to look at different types of packaging and describe the shapes, sizes, colors and the way they are stacked together.

Question 4: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 4: By asking questions about the interesting nature of packaging materials, you can help to broaden an inquisitive mind in your child. The packages shouting in their vivid colors to shoppers, also aid the child to strengthen his/her familiarity with colors, shapes and sizes.

Mind exercise 4

What product changes its shape when you take it out of its packaging?

Answer 4: All liquid products. First of all, tell your child that bottles and cans are also packaging. Secondly, the learning experience is that liquids take up the shape of its container.

Tip No. 5: Swimming Underwater:

Underwater swimming improves the physical condition of your brain and is an easy way to increase intelligence, even your own already-high intelligence. Win Wenger

Enroll your children in swimming lessons and encourage them to spend as much time as possible under water.

You might do this by playing some games, such as throwing some coins into the pool and asking your children to look for them.

Another way is to have a competition on who can hold their breath the longest under water, provided of course that your child is old enough to understand the importance of breathing.

Question 5: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 5: Dr. Win Wenger, a creativity expert and author of, "The Einstein Factor - A Proven New Method for Increasing Your Intelligence" related his childhood experiences. He shot up from a lackluster performance at the bottom of the class to the top of the class after swimming under water for several hours every day in the summer of 1959.

There is a scientific basis for this technique.

Dr. Robert Doman, medical director of the Philadelphia Institute for the Achievement of the Human Potential provided an explanation. He explained that underwater swimming increases the carbon dioxide content in the blood. This causes a signal to warn our bodies that our oxygen supply is in danger of being cut off.

In response, the carotid arteries that carry blood to our heads dilate (widen) and allow more blood to flow through them, saturating our brains in an exceptionally rich flow of oxygenated blood.

Mind exercise 5

Pour some ice-cold water into a clear glass. Notice the water droplets formed on the outside surface of the glass. How would you determine whether the water droplets come from the ice-water inside the glass?

Answer 5: Put some coloring into the ice-water inside the glass. Then, get white tissue paper and wipe the outside droplets with it. Does the paper take up the color of the ice-water or remain white?

The paper remains white proving that the water droplets did not come from inside the glass. They are formed due to the condensation of the water from the air.

Tip No. 6 - Take a walk in the garden

"Encourage your child to appreciate the inspiration that surrounds him. Marvel at the power of the wind, the immensity of the ocean, the perfection of a snowflake, the night sky, or the rugged beauty of a mountain range." [**Brenda Nixon**](#)

Discover the body's senses in the comfort of your own garden or a public park with your child. Encourage your child to see, feel, smell, hear and sample the taste of edible fruits and flowers. Complete this sensory adventure by nurturing the child to develop a fine acumen to the sounds of nature – be it birds, insects and the hustle of the wind.

Flowers, in particular, hold unbound fascination for the child.

Question 6: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 6: The five senses are pathways to the brain. Frequent sensory adventures like these stimulate your children's mental development. They help them associate the senses in the identification of food, plants, animals and other objects.

These experiences open new pathways to the brain. Overall, stimulating the five basic senses promotes the mental, physical and spiritual development of children.

Mind exercise 6

Ask your children to smell a piece of freshly fried chicken or any good aroma food. Then, ask them to take a bite and taste it. Next, give them a

sip of water and ask them to pinch their noses so that they will not be able to smell. Now, get them to eat the same piece of food again. Is there a difference?

Answer 6: Yes there will be a difference. Our sense of taste depends on the smell. Food will taste bland if there is no smell. Encourage your children to make the association.

Tip No. 7 Creative Art

'Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist after growing up.' **Pablo Picasso**

Every child is an artist. All that children need is some freedom to explore their creativity through art. Set aside a wall or section of a wall in your home (use a surface material that is easy to clean with a duster or a piece of wet cloth) for your children to practice their art.

You should emphasize the enjoyment and the process of creating art more than the results. The final quality of a young child's work is not as important as the process used in creating them.

Question 7: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 7: A large plain surface gives a lot of room for your children to explore their artistic flair. Your children's cognitive development depends on how their perception and hand-eye coordination vary as well as their views of the world.

For instance, a cat may look like anything but a cat. Take a positive view into your child's explanation for his/her drawings. Encourage their expression of ideas by praising their artwork to your visiting friends or relatives.

Mind exercise 7

Explore geometric shapes with your children. For example, what does a small circle on top of a big circle represent? Look for as many answers as possible.

Answer 7: Snowman, balancing a ball on the head, an orange on top of a watermelon, a ping-pong ball on top of a tennis ball, etc.

Tip No. 8 Fantasy Play

"The dynamic principle of fantasy is play, which belongs also to the child.

As such, it appears to be inconsistent with the principle of serious work.

But, without this playing with fantasy no creative work has ever yet come to birth. The debt we owe to the play of imagination is incalculable." **Carl**

Gustav Jung

Parents should encourage their children to indulge in fantasy play even though it may create some messiness in their homes.

Empty boxes, in particular, hold endless fascination for the child. They could become cars, spaceships, planes or anything that their imagination wants them to be.

Cushions and blankets too can become imaginative playthings such as castles, tents and perhaps caves.

Question 8: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 8: Children, who were, in their learning, allowed to test and make discoveries by their own abilities and in a variety of ways, acquired a greater ability to solve problems than children who have only been observing or been instructed when solving problems.

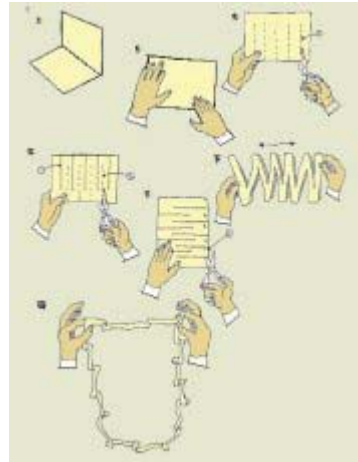
A study presented at the American Psychological Society's conference shows that children are more creative when parents are not constantly encouraging them.

Dr. Dale Grubb, a co-author of the study, said: "The adage that parents want to encourage kids to color between the lines appears to be true. Parents need to allow their kids to feel free to experiment if they want their children to grow up into creative and original adults. If parents get involved too much the child feels they are being evaluated and judged."

Mind exercise 8

Tear a piece of A4 paper in two and give one piece to your child. Ask them to use a pair of scissors to cut a hole so big that they can walk right through it!

Answer 8:



Tip No. 9 – Fun with empty boxes

Playfulness supports higher order learning. Engagement, interaction and reflection are the key elements of a playful learning situation

Nobuyuki Ueda

Empty boxes, cartons or packaging materials left over from your shopping can be transformed into endless playthings that are limited only by your child's imagination.

They can decorate the boxes, put them on their heads as headgear, mount them on their bodies as body-armor, sit inside them as cars, ships or planes, etc.

Question 9: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 9: Creating their own playthings allows your child to develop his or her imagination. Boxes and packaging materials provide endless fascination for the child.

In fact, the simpler and less expensive the materials, the better they are for the development of imagination. For instance, children often have much more fun playing with the packaging materials of the toys rather than with the toys themselves.

Mind exercise 9

Ask your child how to reduce the space required to keep the boxes.

Answer 9: You can put the smaller boxes into the bigger one or you

could just fold the boxes.

Tip No. 10 - The Map of the World

"Society has not given the same attention to the education of the genius as has been given to other groups. We spend millions every year for the mentally retarded. The unfortunate child of superior intellect spends his time in a usual commonplace school assimilating a diet far below his expected capacity." **Josephine Concannon**

Discuss with your child the difference between the world map represented on a globe and a world map in a map-book. How are they different?

The globe, being a three-dimensional image, gives a more accurate representation of our planet Earth than the two-dimensional map book. You can never accurately flatten the globe into a 2-D representation.

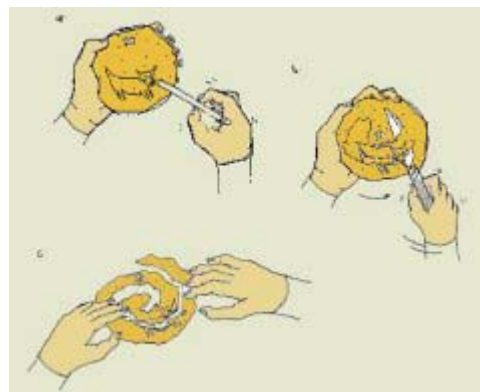
Question 10: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 10: The exercise will help your child to understand that we can never fully represent our real 3-D world in 2-D pictures. This will trigger greater interest and curiosity in your child to find out more about the world around him or her.

Mind exercise 10

Ask your child to draw a picture of a cat or dog using a marker pen on the skin of an orange. Next peel the orange from the top with a small knife in a circular direction (see diagram). Reconstruct the picture by laying the peeled skin flat on the table. Does the picture look the same?

Answer 10: The picture will not look the same because you project a 3-D image on a 2-D surface.



Tip No. 11 - Watching Clouds

"In pretend or make-believe play, imagination is given a full reign – this

form of play stimulates the child's inventive rather than imitative abilities." **Dorothy G . Singer & Jerome L. Singer**

On a day when the sky is brilliant blue and the clouds move by in their formations of different shapes, ask your children to interpret their shapes. Ask them what they can see. Are there animals, people or shapes of other living things or objects? Can they see dinosaurs, elephants, eagles, tigers, etc?

Bring sketchbooks for yourself and your kids and draw what you see above you. Do not disagree with your children. Instead, be fascinated with what they describe to you.

Question 11: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 11: Fantasy and imagination are important ingredients for a creative mind. By asking your children to associate cloud shapes with animals, you are nurturing their natural and inborn power of association. This will strengthen their powers of observation and correlation, a fundamental creative skill.

After all, creativity is about the ability to make connections between two or more unrelated objects or events.

Mind exercise 11

What material has lots of holes yet can hold water

Answer 11: Sponge.

Tip No. 12 - What Are They Selling?

"Focus should be to encourage and develop creativity in all children without the ultimate goal being to make all children inventors, but rather to develop a future generation of critical thinkers." **Faraq Mousa**

Whenever a TV commercial comes on, ask your children what's being sold and what methods are being used to convince us to buy the products.

Children love this game because the answer is not always obvious.

Sometimes the commercials are subtle, and it can be challenging for young children, sometimes even for us, to identify what was being sold.

You should also ask them whether the advertisement's claims are believable and if not, why not?

Question 12: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 12: Children love this game because the answer may not be obvious. The game will stimulate your child's thinking process and make them less gullible about the advertisement's claims.

Mind exercise 12

Hold a magnet and gently glide it over the TV screen with the TV on. What happens to the picture and why?

Answer 12: The picture will be distorted. At this stage it suffices to explain that TV signals depend on magnetism.

Tip No. 13 - Benefits of Father's Involvement

"Life is demanding with pressures squeezing from every side. Parenting, though, requires a lifetime investment. It's not something one can just do during commercial breaks or while driving the children to school." **Scott Turansky & Joanne Miller**

Mothers are usually the ones who spend the most time with her children. However, the father's role is also very important. Fathers should spend more time with his children telling stories, playing games and helping out with their school work.

Question 13: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 13: Fathers exert a very powerful influence in their children's lives. Researchers discovered from surveys of over 20,000 parents that, when fathers took an active role in their children's education, their children were:

- more likely to receive good results
- more likely to enjoy school

Children who grow up with warm, nurturing and actively involved fathers (as opposed to uninvolved fathers) reap tremendous benefits including:

- better school performance
- increased self-esteem
- healthier relationships with peers

Mind exercise 13

You are standing at the edge of a ravine exactly 100 meters from the stony bottom and holding an egg in your right outstretched hand. You let go of the egg and let it fall into the ravine. What happens to the egg when it has fallen 100m?

Answer 13: Nothing. The egg hasn't reached the bottom yet at 100m. The distance to the bottom is 100m plus the height of your outstretched hand above the ground where you stand.

Tip No. 14 - Jig-saw Puzzles

"Play is perhaps the most important element of human development. Play helps us develop a social sense, physical abilities and communicative skills." **Doris Bergen**

Get a jig-saw puzzle set corresponding to the age of your children. Ask them to assemble the pieces according to the picture given. Now turn the pieces over so that the pictures are covered. Ask your child to assemble the jig-saw puzzle using these blank pieces.

Is there a difference in difficulty in assembling the pieces?

Why?

Question 14: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 14: Assembling jig-saw pieces provide an important hands-on learning experience for your child. The pieces with the picture facing up represent knowledge. The blank pieces represent ignorance.

The exercise therefore demonstrates the importance of knowledge in problem-solving. That's why children need to go to school.

Mind exercise 14

Where is the principle of the jig-saw puzzle applied in real life?

Answer 14: It is applied to the construction of pre-fabricated houses and bridges. Many manufacturing operations involving the assembly of parts also utilize this principle.

Tip No. 15 - Paper Fantasy

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled." **Plutarch**

Ask your children to crumble a soft piece of paper tissue in their hands. Start with geometric shapes like cubes and pyramids by compressing the crumbled piece of paper. Once they are familiar with shaping the paper they can proceed to making animals or objects . By tearing, pulling, folding and rolling the paper your children should be able to transform the paper into wings, head, tails or legs.

Question 15: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

This is a simple but effective exploration of the creativity of your child. Let them fantasize about their creation.

Don't worry if the piece of paper doesn't look like the object or animal they described. Remember the surrealist art of Picasso, the great artist?

Mind exercise 15

Can you wrap up fire with a piece of paper?

Answer 15: Yes , you can. Have you ever seen paper lanterns?

Tip No. 16 - Stacking Cans

'When you create an environment where learning can happen, learning happens.' **Maria Montessori**

Empty drink cans can be great creative playthings for your children. Ask your child to make the tallest structure possible using only 10 cans. Once they have finished, ask them whether there is any way that they could stack them even higher.

Question 16: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 16: Your children learn about the concept of stability. A flat surface is inherently more stable than a curved surface. To stimulate your children's thinking skills further, ask them why cans are usually round and not square or any other shape - Round is stronger.

It is possible to use thinner cans and thus to save on materials by having pleats around the cans.

Mind exercise 16

Can you build a stable structure 10 cans high by stacking one can on top of another?

Answer 16: There are many ways of doing this. You could do it outdoors and fill up the lower cans with water and using progressively less water as you go higher. Make sure you are prepared to get wet. It will be a lot of fun for your kid though.

Another way is to use double-sided tape to glue the cans together.

You can also stack the cans between two sticks anchored firmly in the ground.

There are endless ways of doing this. Just use your imagination!

Tip No. 17 – Singing

"A genius must be a well-rounded person, familiar with many things: art, music, science, sports. He or she can't be restricted to only one field of expertise." **Yoshiro Nakamatsu**

Sing a popular song along with your child and clap your hands in rhythm to the music. It is even better if both of you sway your bodies to the beat of the music as well.

Question 17: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Answer 17: Singing with music activates both the left (logical) and the right (creative) brain hemispheres of your child. A child requires whole-brain thinking to succeed in life. By using both singing and body movements in tune to the music, you are programming your child's crucial thinking skills for success.

Mind exercise 17

Encourage your children to compose their own songs by replacing the lyrics or words of the song with those of their own. Using your children's name in the songs would be excellent.

You could include some elements of your child's life such as the names of family members, friends, etc., into the lyrics of the song. This will make your child very happy and love to sing even more.

Alternatively, you could hum the tune of some songs and ask your children to identify the title of the song.

Tip No. 18 – Fun with coins

"Creativity is more of a dull glow than a divine spark- the more fanning it receives, the brighter it will burn." **James Adams**

Playing with coins is great fun and a fantastic learning experience for your child. You could spin, toss and roll the coins along its edge. Ask your child to follow the movements of the coins and make some observations. Could your child repeat what you have done with the coins?

Question 18: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

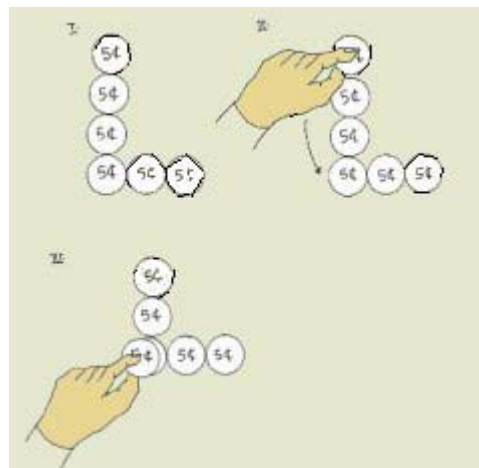
Answer 18: The different movements of the coins will arouse the curiosity of your child. Curiosity is one of the key elements in stimulating creative thinking.

The observation and playing with the coins will further strengthen your child's creative thinking skills.

Mind exercise 18

Arrange 7 coins in an L-shape (4 coins in one row and 3 in the other) as shown. How do you make 2 rows of 4 coins by moving only one coin?

Answer 18: Remove the last coin on the row of 4 coins and stack it on top of the coin in the corner.



Tip 19 - Brain Food

"The longer the child is breastfed, up to study limits of 24 months, the greater their IQ scores and school performance. The human child's brain is growing most rapidly during the first two years of life. Since we know that some of the ingredients in breast-milk are critical to brain growth and

development, the results are not surprising." **Katherine Dettwyler**

The most important brain nutrient for your child's brain is mother's milk . Mothers should breast-feed their babies as much as possible. The other very important but frequently neglected nutrient is water. Make sure that your child drinks water throughout the day.

Babies born to mothers who had poor diets may have some form of mental retardation or behavioral problems. Also, children who do not receive adequate nutrition in their first few years of life may develop problems later.

Scientists at Okayama University in Japan have found that breastfeeding boosts the mother's brainpower. Women who breastfeed, produce the hormone oxytocin, which stimulates milk production. Oxytocin also increases activity in the hippocampus, a part of the brain responsible for learning, thereby enhancing the intelligence and memory of the mother.

Question 19: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 19: The brain needs to be constantly nourished with water to function well.

Regarding breast milk, Dr. Noboru Kobayashi, a prominent Japanese pediatrician and director of Child Research Net, mother's breast milk is rich in energy and most of it is used for the brain's development.

In newborns, approximately 15% of the baby's weight is due to the brain mass but, with the rapid growth of the body, the size of the brain decreases in proportion.

When the child reaches the age of two, the brain has already developed to 60% of its capacity as an adult. Therefore, the assimilated breast milk's energy will be consumed with the brain that is actively developing at a rapid speed.

Tip No. 20 - Concentrate on Strengths not Weaknesses

"Whenever we pass judgment on a child, we fail to see him as a whole person. True, he may be nervous, shy, stubborn, moody, or violent; we may know his siblings or his background, or think we recognize family traits. But to focus on any one aspect of a child, especially a negative one,

is to put him in a box whose sides may not really be determined by reality, but only by our own expectations." **Johann Christoph Arnold**

When your child comes home from school with a report card, concentrate on the good grades and not on the poor ones. Praise his/her achievements on the good grades instead of scolding him/her on the poor ones.

Question 20: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 20: The good grades are where your children's talents lie. Developing their strengths gives them a much better chance to succeed in life. It is also good for motivation and confidence building. By focusing on their strengths, your children will be able to excel in whatever they do as they will be tapping into their inner source of creativity.

Based on the principle that a rising tide raises all boats, there is an excellent likelihood the areas where they are weaker will improve as well.

Mind exercise 20

A boat has a 6-step ladder with two adjacent steps 25cm apart hanging above the water at low tide. If the tide rises by 1m (100cm) at high tide how many steps would still be visible above the water.

Answer 20: The same. A rising tide raises all boats.

Tip No. 21: Telling Fairy Tales

"To have brilliant children, tell them fairy tales. To have even more brilliant children, tell them even more fairy tales." **Albert Einstein**

Children who grow up on fairy tales have vivid imaginations. Make the tales come alive by varying your voice intonation, voice volume, facial expressions and body movements. If the child is old enough to understand the story well, try to use books with minimal or no illustrations. Then, the children will be free to use their imagination freely to construct the story as it progresses.

If the illustrations are there, the children will then be stuck with what the picture presented.

Question 21: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 21: Children, when left on their own will usually indulge in make-believe play. They take on the roles of their popular heroes which

may include their parents, relatives, friends and any other character that they have come across.

This is very good for nurturing their creativity as fantasy is a bridge between their real world and their imagined ones. I practiced this on my children when I created my own stories of fantasy every night at their bedtime.

My youngest daughter, who is now twelve, still enjoys my stories and will not go to sleep without them. She told her mother that my stories were so vivid that it was as if she was watching a TV show!

Such is the power of imagination of children.

Mind exercise 21

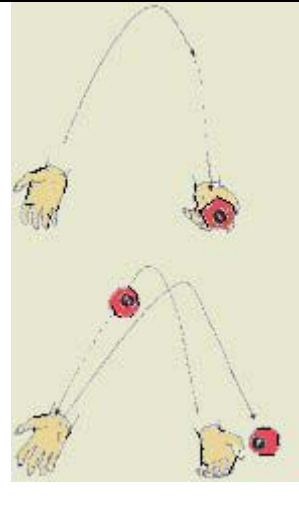
Your children find a magic lamp with a genie. The genie can grant your children any wish but he (genie) has to be kept busy in-between wishes. Otherwise , he will swallow your children. The genie will take only an instant to grant any wish. How would your children ensure that the genie will be kept busy all the time in-between granting their wishes?

Answer 21: There are endless answers to this question. One possible answer is: Ask the genie to create two large tanks, one full of water and the other empty. Give your genie a small scoop to transfer water from the full tank to the empty tank, one scoop at a time without spilling a single drop. Every time the water has been fully transferred to the other tank the process is reversed. This process can go on indefinitely. Can you think of other methods?

Tip No. 22: Juggling

"The home is the principal learning environment for the child and parents are the primary educators." **Thomas Armstrong**

Teach your children how to juggle by first using one ball or by crushing a piece of paper into a ball. Make sure that the ball fits comfortably into the folded palms of your child's hands. Once the one-ball technique is mastered, it is time to introduce 2 balls.



Question 22: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 22: Juggling enhances coordination between both sides of the body and integrates the functions of both sides of the brain. This promotes creativity, speeds up learning and improves performance.

According to Prof. Raymond Dart, a renowned brain researcher, anthropologist and anatomist, the secret to creativity lies in people "balancing their brains" and the best way to do it is to take up juggling.

His key message is that a balanced body tends to produce a balanced brain and, likewise, a balanced brain produces a balanced body. Thus, taking up juggling not only enhances creativity but also improves your general health and physical fitness as well.

Mind exercise 22

How do you throw a ball in such a way that after traveling a certain distance, it will come back to you?

Answer 22: Throw the ball upwards or bounce the ball from a wall or from the floor.

Tip No. 23 – The Orange Experience

Real learning is a process of discovery and, if we want it to happen, we must create the kind of conditions in which discoveries are made.

We know what these are. They include time, leisure, freedom, and lack of pressure. John Holt

The orange is an excellent fruit for a multi-sensory experience. Get an orange to eat with your children. Before you even begin to peel it, ask your children to observe it with all their senses. Give your children as much time as they need.

When you finally begin to peel it, be very deliberate and pay attention to detail. Remove each section with full attention.

Have your children describe this whole process out loud.

Question 23: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 23: Multi-sensory learning is the most effective form of learning. The orange experience will enhance your child's observation skills and heighten their senses which are important aspects of creativity.

It will also stimulate a greater interest in science and environmental awareness. Your children will be equipped with a greater capacity to enjoy learning in school.

Mind exercise 23

Play a game of sensory perception. Blindfold your child and ask him/her to identify different fruits by the sense of touch, smell and taste.

You could also cut the different fruits into similar sizes and shapes to increase the level of difficulty.

Use your imagination to improvise various ways of playing this game.

Tip No. 24 - Milk-powder scoop

Take back control of your family's schedule.

Choose, with your children, the activities that matter most.

And, most importantly, schedule some down time every week. Make sure there are open spaces – time to just be a family - with plenty of room for rest and imagination.

The plastic measuring scoop that comes with every can of milk powder or cereal drink is an excellent toy for your children. Collect dozens of these scoops and watch the fun as your children play with them.

A single scoop can become a hammer, pendulum or a pipe.

A series of scoops joined together can become a centipede.

Just let your child explore new combinations of the scoops with his fertile imagination.

Question 24: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 24: Children improvise all the time during play. Improvisation is a very good prelude to developing creative thinking skills. In fact, during a crisis situation, the ability to improvise may spell the difference between life and death.

By encouraging your children to improvise during play, you help your child to develop life-long improvisation skills that will better equip them to meet the challenges later on in life.

Mind exercise 24

How do you use a pencil to estimate the height of your house?

Answer 24: There are many ways to do this.

One way is to compare the length of the pencil to that of its shadow close to noon, when its shadow is relatively short. Estimate the number of times that the pencil length is longer than its shadow.

Next, measure the length of your house's shadow. Multiply this by the same number of times that your pencil is longer than its shadow and it will give you an estimate of the height of your house.

Can you think of other ways?

Tip No. 25 – Brainteasers

"All children are born geniuses, and we spend the first six years of their lives degeniusing them." **Buckminster Fuller**

Brainteasers are excellent for nurturing your child's thinking skills. You can buy puzzle and riddle books from bookshops.

The best brainteasers are the ones that you create for your child while traveling or at home.

I constantly create such brainteasers for my children. All that it takes is to be able to make a connection between objects and living things.

The body can become the subject of brainteasers. The nostrils are twin caves with tall grass. The toes are two rows of soldiers marching in

formation, each with a captain (the big toe on that foot).

Question 25: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 25: These brainteasers will improve your child's ability to make connections with the things around them – an essential feature of creative thinking.

It will also improve their problem-solving skills.

Mind exercise 25

What goes around the world but stays in a corner?

Answer 25: A postage stamp

Tip No. 26 – Visits to Science Centers and Museums

"Children learn best when they are helped to discover the underlying principles for themselves." **Peter Kline**

Take your child to visit Science Centers, museums or even some trade shows such as Education fairs.

Science centers offer hands-on learning experiences to help children discover facts and scientific principles through playing with the exhibits. It is useful if they can participate in scientific experiments where they may ask questions.

Look out too for special programs where your children can take part.

Question 26: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 26: This old Chinese saying still holds true today, "I hear, I forget. I see, I remember. I do, I understand."

Personal discovery is one of the most effective ways of learning. It arouses in your child the curiosity of learning, which in turn will spark her creativity and imagination.

Encounters with hands-on learning could have a long-lasting impact on your child. For example, the famous scientist Albert Einstein was enthralled by the properties of a compass that he encountered in a science museum.

Please also bear in mind that modern research shows that learners have different learning styles. Some need to hear, some need to see or read

and some need to do.

Not all children are the same or learn in similar ways.

You should provide different teaching styles to help ensure that your children have opportunities to translate information and skills into learning styles which are appropriate for their individual needs.

Mind exercise 26

Sprinkle some pepper on the surface of a glass or a bowl of clean water. Can you make the pepper move away from the center when you dip your finger into the center of the glass or bowl?

Answer 26: This problem illustrates the principle of surface tension. You rub your fingertip with some soap or dip it in mild detergent. The detergent breaks down the water's surface tension so that the water spreads away from the center pushing the pepper with it. Teach this to your child to surprise his friends. Only he will have the "magic" finger!



Tip No. 27 – Animal Magic

"Mothers and kids are the most dynamic and exciting learning combination possible and have always been since mothers started that process a long time ago." **Glenn Doman**

Children learn to represent things by using their bodies. Imitating the movement of animals offers a very interesting exercise in creativity.

Ask your children to slither like a snake, hop like a rabbit or a kangaroo, walk like an elephant and crawl like a caterpillar.

Do not be restricted to only these animals.

Ask your children to imitate the movements of any other animals that they think of.

It is really fun, especially if you join them and play some music as well.

Question 27: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 27: Your children would be able to correlate the movements of the animals with their body structure. It will enable them to discover that different animals move differently.

This play will make them more alert to observe animal movements when they watch TV shows or they are at the zoo or anywhere else where they encounter live animals.

You can even make it more fun by asking your children to imitate a particular animal movement and you try to guess the animal. Your children could let out shrieks of laughter if you guessed incorrectly so do try to deliberately make a wrong guess occasionally. This will give your children another chance to demonstrate the movement again.

If you give up after a few tries, your children will try to explain the movement to you. Isn't this a wonderful way to encourage creativity in your children?

Mind exercise 27

Ask your children for the names of some of their favorite animals. Which animal do they like best and why?

Next, get a pencil and paper to design a new animal, a combination of two or more animals with, for example, the ears of a rabbit, the body of an elephant and the legs of a caterpillar.

What would they call such a creature?

Where do they think these creatures could be found?

Adapt this mind exercise to arouse the natural curiosity of your children.

Tip No. 28 – Playing with Dough

"What's the matter with kids today? Their lives are so busy, structured and infused with digital technology that they have no time for fun.

Kids today are focused on competition, efficiency and on results. One consequence of this development is that their imaginations are beginning to atrophy." **Ted Klauber**



Next time when you are making buns, cookies or pizza, give your child a piece of the dough to play with.

My children just loved to make animal shapes with them. Whether baked or steamed, the results always fascinated them.

Sometimes, they liked to keep them rather than eating them. It provided a great deal of fun and learning.

When they were baked or steamed, the final shape might be different from what they originally created.

If you do not prepare buns or cookies, you could buy some modeling clay for them from a stationery shop.

Question 28: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 28: This is both an interesting discovery involving art and science. Making animal shapes is the artistic part, while observing the change is science.

You could make it even more interesting by allowing your child to paint their artwork with food colors.

The transformation of the piece of dough into a cooked food could be the starting point of a discussion about the cooking of food.

You could tell your child that cooking could destroy important nutrients like vitamins. Therefore, it is good to consume fresh fruits and vegetables in the form of salads.

Mind exercise 28

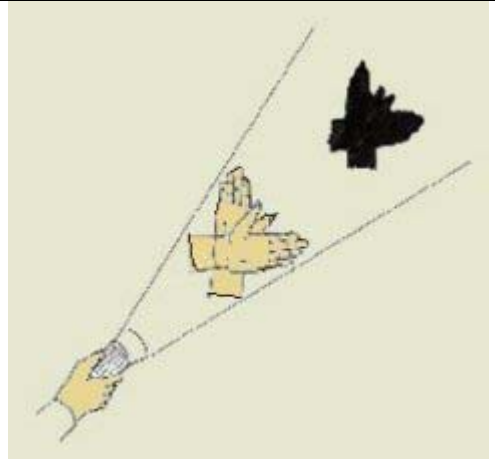
Given a knife, how do you cut the cake into 8 equal pieces with only 3 cuts?

Answer 28: First slice the cake horizontally in the middle with the knife. Then make two cuts from top to bottom making a total of 8 pieces.

Tip No. 29 – Fun with Shadows

"Creativity provides an exciting way for children to become intrinsically motivated, to find joy in the ordinary and to discover their hidden talents. All children possess creativity." **Steve Dahlberg**

You only need a torch, or flashlight, and a blank wall for this. Switch off the lights and get your child to hold the torch with its light switched on. Make different animal-shaped shadows using both your hands and fingers. You could also introduce other objects such as pencils, forks and spoons to make the shadows more interesting.



Once your child gets the hang of it, encourage him to make his own shadows.

Question 29: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 29: Playing with shadows is a good way to tap into your child's creativity. It demonstrates to your children that they could apply their creativity anywhere using only their hands and a light source. It also demonstrates the principle of light traveling in straight lines.

Mind exercise 29

Is it possible to have colored shadows?

Answer 29: Yes. It is especially effective using the primary light colors of red, green and blue. The lights should be placed at different positions. Just use a piece of transparent, colored paper over the light source and explore the possibilities.

Tip No. 30 - Collage

"Creativity includes drawing and painting, but it is more than just art. Creativity includes having fun and playing, but it is more than just fun and games. Creativity provides an exciting way for children to become intrinsically motivated, to find joy in the ordinary, and to discover their hidden talents. All children possess creativity." **Steve Dahlberg**

Using pictures and words cut out from old magazines and a piece of art paper or card board, create a collage. Ask your child what theme they would like to create a collage about. The theme might be "My hobbies", "What I would like to be when I grow up" or "My dream home".

Your child can add their own decorations to the collage by using colored pencils, crayons or pieces of colored paper.

Question 30: How can this nurture creativity in my children?

Response 30: This exercise encourages your child to communicate her creativity in a way that others can understand. This is a very important aspect of creativity. There is no point being creative if the creativity cannot be communicated to others. Tell your child to explain her completed collage and ask her questions and listen intently to her answers. It should be a very interesting experience for you and your child.

Mind exercise 30

How do you pack 9 photos in equal numbers into 4 envelopes?

Answer 30: You can pack 3 photos into each of the 3 envelopes. After this, you stuff these 3 envelopes into a larger envelope.

There are other alternative answers. Could you figure them out with your child?

Part II

The Creative Mischiefs of Little Kamal

"Society has not given the same attention to the education of the genius as has been given to other groups. We spend millions every year for the mentally retarded. The unfortunate child of superior intellect spends his time in a usual commonplace school assimilating a diet far below his expected capacity." **Josephine Concannon**

One of the greatest joys of parenting is to observe our kids growing up, especially during their formative pre-school years. During this time they are at their creative best and delight us with their antics.

Recalling these incidents will usually put a smile on our faces for years to come.

A very good friend of mine, Talib Zulpilip, related to me the creative mischief of his son whom he lovingly called "Little Kamal". Kamal was a very active and playful little boy. He was the baby of the family and provided hilarious entertainment but was a source of exasperation for them. I find the stories about Kamal touch my heart as a parent and I think they will touch yours too. That's why I would like to share them with you.

Invisible Art – "Germ Warfare"

Kamal was good at a lot of things, but art was not one of them.

Knowing this weakness, his elder sister Moana and her friends teased him to draw.

To their surprise, Kamal readily accepted the challenge without hesitation. With a pencil in hand, Kamal bent over the piece of white paper and concentrated on his task with the intensity of a great artist. Finally, he completed his art and triumphantly declared "Finished!"

It was a blank piece of paper!

"We can't see any drawing on the paper," chorused the girls.

"Of course you can't see" replied Little Kamal with a cheeky smile, " I drew germs"

Feline Helpers

Talib believes that getting his children to help out with household chores is a good way to bring them up. I agree with him.

In fact, Kamal himself admitted that these chores have helped him a lot to cope with his student days at a university away from home in Australia.

When Kamal was old enough to help out with household chores, it was decided to assign him his roster for clearing the table after dinner.

Always cheerful, Kamal accepted his assignment without complaint.

One day, after a few weeks of doing his roster, he surveyed the table and came up with a novel idea. Instead of cleaning the table himself, he gathered all the cats and kittens and put them on the dining table and then just watched.

On being asked what he was up to he put his finger to his mouth and signaled "Shhh... .I am teaching the cats to clean the table"

"Why?" I whispered.

"If they can lick all the food off, then they clean the dishes for me"

Balanced Meal

Like most kids of his age, little Kamal simply loved junk food.

He disliked eating fruits and vegetables.

His father, Talib, always wanted to persuade him to have a more nutritionally balanced meal. He found the right opportunity when he found Kamal munching happily on some food in his hands.

"You know that it is important to eat a balanced meal?" Talib reminded his son.

"Yes, I do. I am having balanced meal" he replied, waving a burger on one hand and a chicken drumstick on the other.

A Little Boy and the Sea

One fine morning, Kamal was swimming in the calm, warm clear blue sea with Moana, his big sister.

After a while, they were told that it was getting late and it was time to go home.

They asked for a bit of an extension and it was granted.

When they were told it was finally time to go, Kamal happily followed Moana out of the water.

But, once on the beach Kamal was up to his usual antics.

After a short distance walking on the beach, Kamal stumbled and said, "I fell down!"

He was told, "Okay, you go and wash the sand off" and he happily went to clean himself in the sea.

After taking his sweet time to wash the sand off, he was asked to get out of the water and he did.

After a few minutes of walking he stumbled again. "I fell again!" he exclaimed.

He was asked to wash and took the opportunity to have another frolic in the sea.

Then, he had a third fall. It dawned on his father that the falls were done on purpose - a delaying tactic.

After becoming wise to this, Talib solved the repeated 'fall and washing' problem.

Kamal was not asked to have a wash after a fall. Instead, the 3 year old Kamal was carried sand and all, on his father's shoulders.

He laughed , knowing that he had been beaten this time.

Education

Like most parents, we hoped that Kamal would take his studies seriously. He was encouraged to think, (i.e. use his brains - we believe he had plenty).

But, he was rather inquisitive and from an early age started questioning the conventional wisdom of education.

Art: In his early days at Primary School, he came upon a simple conclusion about art and drawing. Despite Talib's effort to assist him in the art assignment, including doing the drawing, the art teacher still saw it fit to give only a "C"- for the fatherly love.

No doubt, the fact that Kamal was not too good at drawing could have prompted this discovery and the following dialog.

"Why do we have to learn drawing?" he inquired one evening

"It is good training to develop your skill" Talib replied and thought that was a wisdom-laden answer.

"Why do I need to develop the skill to draw?" Kamal persisted

"Oh well, when you see nice things like flowers or birds, you can draw them"

"Won't it be easier just to take their pictures with my camera?"

"I suppose so" replied Talib who saw some logic in the reasoning.

"Drawing was for the olden days before they invented cameras" Kamal concluded.

Little Kamal did not see it appropriate to continue art at secondary school

Why Study History? History was among the various subjects which Kamal had to study.

He had obtained an "A" for the subject but he had flunked it at other times. On being encouraged to study history, he stated politely that history is a boring subject involving the past and dead people.

"Well, it is good to know the past – that's the reason we learn history" Talib said in his fatherly fashion.

"Good in what sense?"

"Say in the past they had wars; knowing the past might help mankind not to repeat the mistake." Talib tried to instill a bit of philosophy.

"Did they teach history in the past?"

"Yes."

"Then how did they have so many wars in the past?" came the logical question.

"Anyhow, when you study history you get to know historical figures" persisted Talib.

"It won't be much good even if I learn about them."

"Why not?" Talib thought it was his turn to ask a question to see if the little fellow had any logical answer.

"Well, even if I learn about them I would not meet them."

Kamal won that round.

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I hope that you have enjoyed reading the creative mischief of little Kamal. I am sure you have similar stories of your children during their young days. Why not share them with me so that I could include them in future editions of my book? You could email me at drykk@mindbloom.net.

Part III

In Praise of Black Sheep

Rule-breaking children make the most self-reliant and independent adults

by ***Johann Christoph Arnold***

There's a black sheep in every flock, and there are few of us who don't know one, or didn't know one as a child.

Every family, every class, has one: that brother or sister, boy or girl, who's always in trouble, who's prone to stretch limits or take things "too far," who's embarrassingly honest, who never fits in.

It's that child over whom every teacher puzzles over longest and every parent loses the most sleep.

But, no matter how natural the phenomenon, being a misfit is never easy.

Because children are so vulnerable, and because they are dependent on the adults around them, they are far more sensitive to criticism than one might guess, and far more easily crushed.

And, even if their natural forgetfulness and their amazing capacity to forgive relieves most children of much that might burden an adult, there are those whose self-confidence can be shredded by an unjust accusation, a cutting remark or a hasty miscalculation.

Whenever we pass judgment on a child, we fail to see him as a whole person. True, he may be nervous, shy, stubborn, moody, or violent; we may know his siblings or his background, or think we recognize family traits.

But, to focus on any one aspect of a child, especially a negative one, is to put him in a box whose sides may not really be determined by reality, but only by our own expectations.

Obviously, every child is different.

Some seem to get all the lucky breaks, while others have a rough time simply coping with life.

One child consistently brings home perfect scores, while the next is always

at the bottom of the class.

Another is gifted and popular, while still another, no matter how hard he tries, is always in trouble and often gets forgotten.

As parents, we must refrain from showing favoritism, and from comparing our children with others.

Above all, we must refrain from pushing them to become something that their unique personal makeup may never allow them to be.

Neither should we forget that raising a "good" child is a dubious goal in the first place, if only because the line between instilling integrity and breeding self-righteousness is so fine.

Getting into trouble can be a vital part of building a child's character.

As the Polish pediatrician, Janusz Korczak, points out, "The good child cries very little, he sleeps through the night, he is confident and good-natured. He is well-behaved, convenient, obedient, and good. Yet, no consideration is given to the fact that he may grow up to be indolent and stagnant."

It is often hard for parents to see the benefits of having raised a difficult child - even when the outcome is positive.

But, strange as it may sound, I believe that the more challenging the child, the more grateful the parent should be.

If anything, parents of difficult children ought to be envied, because it is they, more than any others, who are forced to learn the most wonderful secret of true parenthood; the meaning of unconditional love.

It is a secret that remains hidden from those whose love is never tested.

At a conference in the sixties, at a time when "maladjustment" was the educational catchphrase of the day, Martin Luther King shocked teachers and parents by turning the supposed problem on its head.

A colleague remembers him saying, "Thank God for maladjusted children."

When we welcome the prospect of raising the problematic child with these things in mind, we begin to see our frustrations as moments that can awaken our best qualities.

And, instead of envying the ease with which our neighbors seem to raise perfect offspring, we will remember that rule-breakers and children who show their horns often make more self-reliant and independent adults than those whose limits are never tried.

By helping us to discover the limitations of "goodness" and the boredom of conformity, they can teach us the necessity of genuineness, the wisdom of humility and, finally, the reality that nothing good is won without a struggle.

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From "ENDANGERED: Your Child in a Hostile World " by Johann Christoph Arnold. A free ebook & interactive website:

<http://www.plough.com/endangered>

The Edison Trait

Child psychologist Dr. Lucy Jo Palladino wrote a book, "The Edison Trait - Saving the Spirit of Your Nonconforming Child" that elaborated on these "black sheep".

The Edison Trait" is the term she gives to these non-conforming children who display characteristics similar to the famous inventor Thomas Edison. According to her, there is one child with the Edison Trait out of every five children. They are born leaders of the 21st century.

She defines the Edison Trait children as children with dazzling intelligence, a free-spirited approach to life, and the ability to drive everyone around them crazy.

They have the raw talent to succeed in our fast-paced, information rich, techno-magic world. But, unbridled, their talent also brings conflict to their lives.

Edison Trait kids excel at creative thinking , brimming over with one idea after another.

However, schools, organized activities, and routines of daily living reward logical thinking which tend to focus on one idea at a time. Parents and teachers get frustrated by the Edison Trait child's apparent intractability and lack of focus.

A mismatch between school and the child can mask the child's considerable gifts for creativity and independent thinking.

Dr. Palladino distinguishes and describes the three main styles of Edison Trait children.

1] Dreamers: These children live in their own world following no-one's schedule but their own. They are mind wanderers and may look dazed or have a blank expression on their faces. They are frequently prone to say things out of the blue. Sensory experiences of color, sound, texture, taste and smell appeal to them. They like to start many activities but seldom finish any one of them.

The likely career paths for dreamers are as designers, architects, artists, photographers and entertainers.

2] Discoverers: These children have to find things out for themselves and do things their own way.

They are easily attracted to the sights and sounds around them.

It is vital that they be given a chance to express their opinions. They are always ready to speak, especially when you are talking.

The likely career paths for Discoverers are as entrepreneurs, sales and marketing people, inventors and pioneer industrialists.

3] Dynamos: These children possess boundless energy and are constantly on the move.

They are always doing something physical such as running, jumping and climbing.

Being impulsive, they act first and think later. They are risk-takers and daredevils, and life with them is never dull.

At times, they could be aggressive.

The likely career paths for Dynamos are as entrepreneurs and deal-makers for high-risk ventures, athletes, fighter pilots, foreign news correspondents and emergency personnel.

Dr. Palladino offers an 8-step process for parents to understand and teach their Edison Trait children to enable them reach their potential.

A brief description of these eight steps is given below:

Step 1 : Believe in Your Children

Your children's belief in themselves begins with your belief in them. Your expectation influences your children's progress.

If you expect the best, you will help your children to achieve the best they can.

When you correct your children, connect the mistake or behavior to that particular occasion only.

Do not bring up past mistakes so as to make it easier for your children to prevent it from happening again.

Remember, if there is anything we wish to change in your children, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could be

better be changed in ourselves.

Step 2 : Watch What You Say

Let positive statements make up at least 80% of what you say to your children.

Positive statements are acknowledgements of your children's views, efforts and right actions.

Let corrections and reminders be less than the children's instances of good behavior, like being on time and packing things neatly, that you comment or act on.

Recall these positive instances to your children right before they go to sleep.

Step 3 : Build a Parent-and-Child Team

There will be many occasions when you strongly disagree with your children.

When this happens, walk over and stand side by side, next to your children. Or, pull up a chair and sit right by their side.

Look in the same direction they are looking. Reflect on, and not challenge the last thing they said. Let go of the need to be perfect, and give your children the same freedom.

Step 4: Encourage Your Children's Interest

The best way to identify your children's interests is to observe how they play.

Take note of what he or she is doing when your children are intensely focused or involved.

Take heart, even if the activity your children choose for themselves are not the one you would have preferred.

Keep in mind that your purpose is to help them discover their own individual talents and strengths.

Step 5 : Teach Your Children Self-Control

You cannot "control" your children.

You can raise your children to practice self-control.

First, take into account your children's age and level of maturity.

Keep your expectations realistic.

Be consistent in your actions. When a rule is made and it's time to keep the rule, offer your children choices but only those choices that are consistent with the rule.

Teach your children to distinguish between feelings and actions.

Step 6: Coach Your Child To Learn How to Achieve

You can best teach your children by being a good coach.

Give your support, encouragement and (where appropriate) rewards for their efforts and improvements.

Don't compare your children's achievements unfavorably with others.

State goals for your children clearly and unambiguously. Specify a time for a task to be done. In doing so, also remember to give your children as much choice as possible.

Step 7 : Take Care of Yourself

Parenting an Edison Trait child is a stressful job. To cope, you need to set aside at least ten minutes for yourself every day to relax and to renew your personal strength and energy.

Catch yourself when you feel discouraged, disheartened or self-critical.

Try positive affirmations such as, " The surest way to succeed is to try one more time."

Finally, cultivate your sense of humor. Recall the funny things that your children did that made you laugh.

Step 8 : Take Care of Your Family

No matter how focused you become on your Edison Trait child, keep your sights set on maintaining the basics for yourself and your family:

- ✓ Eat nutritious food and a balanced diet
- ✓ Exercise regularly
- ✓ Make sure everyone gets enough sleep

- ✓ Protect your child's impressionable young minds – plan and limit what TV they are watching

High Achievers with Learning Problems

Thomas Edison, one of the world's greatest inventors with over 1000 patents to his name, was branded by his teacher as being unable to learn in school. His mother withdrew him from school after three months in the first grade and educated him herself. She knew that her son was a bright boy. It was just that he was poorly taught at school.

Winston Churchill, recognized as the greatest Prime Minister in Britain's history for his inspirational leadership during World War II was last in his class at his school in Harrow.

Sir Isaac Newton, one of the greatest scientists who ever lived, was considered a poor student in school. He was sent home at nine because he read so much and he left school when he was only fourteen years old.

Gregor Mendel, founder of the science of genetics, flunked his teacher's examination four times in a row and gave up trying.

Albert Einstein, the greatest scientist of the 20th century, did not speak until he was four years old and didn't read until he was seven. His teacher described him as "mentally slow, unsociable and adrift forever in his foolish dreams." He was expelled and was refused admittance to the Zurich polytechnic school

Ludwig Beethoven, the famous pianist and composer, handled the violin awkwardly and preferred playing his own compositions instead of improving his technique. His teacher called him hopeless.

Srinivasa Ramunujan, the brilliant mathematician discovered by Cambridge University, failed his English entrance exam and that effectively ended his formal education. He was the son of a poor family in Madras. Though he lacked some of the ABC's of higher mathematics, he was able, all by himself, to not only catch up with but even surpass a brilliant half-century of mathematical progress.

Richard Branson, billionaire founder of the Virgin Group of Companies and probably the richest man in Britain, suffered from learning difficulties in school and had a problem understanding mathematics. However, he admitted in his autobiography that he has no problems with business

numbers and made many shrewd and successful business investments.

Tom Cruise, one of Hollywood's highest-paid actors, was dyslexic and had difficulty with his speech as a child.

If I Had My Child to Raise Over Again

If I had my child to raise all over again,
I'd finger-paint more, and point the fingers less.
I would do less correcting and more connecting.
I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eyes.
I would care to know less and know to care more.
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.
I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play.
I would run through more fields and gaze at more stars.
I'd do more hugging and less tugging.
I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later.
I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.
I'd teach less about the love of power,
And more about the power of love.

By ***Diane Loomans***

YKK Quotes on Nurturing Creativity in Children

Artists

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist after growing up." **Pablo Picasso**

Boredom

"Boredom will always remain the greatest enemy of school discipline. If we remember that children are bored, not only when they don't happen to be interested in the subject or when the teacher doesn't make it interesting, but also when certain working conditions are out of focus with their basic needs, then we can realize what a great contributor to discipline problems boredom really is. Research has shown that boredom is closely related to frustration and that the effect of too much frustration is invariably irritability, withdrawal, rebellious opposition or aggressive rejection of the whole show." **Fritz Redl**

Brain

"If the right brain abilities are developed between the ages of zero to six, they will be with a child for life. As such, pulling out the brain's natural abilities should take priority over others, so that the child need not suffer at all in learning anything in the future." **Makato Shichida**

Breast-feeding

"The more you breast-feed, the smarter your kid will become. The brains of kids who have been breast-fed are more optimally developed than those of kids who haven't been breast-fed. Not only would the mother be providing the benefit of breast milk, she would provide a biological link with the child that would be very satisfying for both mother and child."

June Machover Reinisch

"The longer the child is breastfed, up to study limits of 24 months, the greater their IQ scores and school performance. The human child's brain is growing most rapidly during the first two years of life. Since we know that some of the ingredients in breast-milk are critical to brain growth and development, the results are not surprising." **Katherine Dettwyler**

Childhood

"Childhood is a land of great promise, a place where you should find

something round and homelike, a place where there is room for a sense of closeness and the cultivation of corresponding needs." **Ernst Bloch**

Community

"Parents, community groups and business leaders must be engaged in developing curricula, discussing student and community needs, supplementing limited resources and finding solutions to school problems like drop-out rates and absenteeism." **Jonny Gevisser**

Computers

"There is no good evidence that most uses of computers significantly improve teaching and learning, yet school districts are cutting programs -- music, art, physical education -- that enrich children's lives to make room for this dubious nostrum." **Todd Oppenheimer**

"Children with access to the computer and the Internet learn, work, think, shop and create in ways different from those of their parents. The Computer and the Internet are the playground of these children – a land of new unlimited possibilities and opportunities." **Don Tapscott**

Creativity

"To give a fair chance to potential creativity is a matter of life and death to any society." **Arnold Toynbee**

"We need creativity to understand the world for creativity is part of the learning process." **Ingrid P Samuelson**

"Creativity can be used to stimulate the aesthetic and emotional dimensions of learning as a counterpoint to cognitive learning." **Florence Beetlestone**

"Non-creative behaviour is learned." **George Land**

"Creativity is more of a dull glow than a divine spark- the more fanning it receives, the brighter it will burn." **James Adams**

"The truly creative mind in any field is no more than this: A human creature born abnormally, inhumanely sensitive. To him... a touch is a blow, a sound is a noise, a misfortune is a tragedy, a joy is an ecstasy, a friend is a lover, a lover is a god, and failure is death."

"Add to this cruelly delicate organism the overpowering necessity to

create, create, create--so that without the creating of music or poetry or books or buildings or something of meaning, his very breath is cut off from him. He must create, must pour out creation. By some strange, unknown, inward urgency he is not really alive unless he is creating."

Pearl S. Buck

"Creativity should be considered a common goal for all individuals rather than a unique trait of the genius." **David Henry Feldman**

"When teachers or parents fail to understand highly creative individuals, refusal to learn or withdrawal may be a consequence. The highly creative person has an unusually strong urge to explore and to create. When he or she thinks up ideas, or tests them and modifies them, he or she has an unusually strong desire to communicate these ideas and to tell others what they have discovered. Yet both peers and teachers named some of the most creative students in our studies as ones who do not speak out their ideas; there is little wonder they are reluctant to communicate their ideas. Frequently, their ideas are so far ahead of those of their classmates and even their teachers that they have given up hopes of communicating." **E. Paul Torrance**

"Creativity includes drawing and painting, but it is more than just art. Creativity includes having fun and playing, but it is more than just fun and games. Creativity provides an exciting way for children to become intrinsically motivated, to find joy in the ordinary, and to discover their hidden talents. All children possess creativity." **Steve Dahlberg**

Education

"Education is that which remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school." **Albert Einstein**

"What the educational experience almost completely excludes is the exercise and development of the students' creativity." **Ray Boltz & Robert Dean**

"It is vital that the emotional needs of these complex, sensitive, independent children be integrated into the educational process." **Marie Friedel**

"No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness, and

generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure." **Emma Goldman**

"Alas, how much is in our education and in our social institutions to prepare us and our children for insanity." **Goethe**

"Education would be much more effective if its purpose was to ensure that by the time they leave school every boy and girl should know how much they do not know, and be imbued with a lifelong desire to know it." **Sir William Haley**

"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education." **Mark Twain**

"The principle goal of education is to create men who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done - men who are creative, inventive and discoverers." **Jean Piaget**

"The need for imagination, a sense of truth and a feeling of responsibility - these are the three forces which are the very nerve of education."

Rudolf Steiner

"Avoid compulsion and let early education be a manner of amusement. Young children learn by games; compulsory education cannot remain in the soul." **Plato**

Environment

"The challenge is to construct environments and ways of living life that will boost creativity and increase children's inborn curiosity for seeking information and learning." **N. Kobayashi**

"The success of early childhood education will depend on whether it can connect the learning environments of home and school. It should be built on the interaction and communication between children, teachers and parents." **Carla Rinaldi**

Examinations

"I should have liked to be asked to say what I knew. They always tried to ask what I did not know. When I would have willingly displayed my knowledge, they sought to expose my ignorance. This sort of treatment had only one result: I did not do well in examinations." **Winston Churchill**

"One had to cram all this stuff into one's mind for the examinations, whether one liked it or not. This coercion had such a deterring effect on me that, after I had passed the final examination, I found the consideration of any scientific problems distasteful to me for an entire year." **Albert Einstein**

Fairy Tales

"To have brilliant children, tell them fairy tales. To have even more brilliant children, tell them even more fairy tales." **Albert Einstein**

Family

"Take back control of your family's schedule. Choose with your children the activities that matter most. And most importantly, schedule some down time every week. Make sure there are open spaces – time to just be a family - with plenty of room for rest and imagination." **Mark W. Merrill**

"Imagine an education system where none of the educators are trained. Indeed, where training is seen as a sign of weakness. There is no curriculum but the amount to be learned is vast and is assumed that everyone knows what it is. There is no assessment, but if people fail the penalties are severe. This is not any old education system but the foundation of every course, job, and profession the world. It is of course the family." **Titus Alexander**

Games

"Avoid compulsion and let early education be a manner of amusement. Young children learn by games; compulsory education cannot remain in the soul." **Plato**

Genius

"A genius must be a well-rounded person, familiar with many things: art, music, science and sports. He or she can't be restricted to only one field of expertise." **Yoshiro Nakamatsu**

"Traditional academic programs are sometimes poorly suited to humans of extraordinary potential. One is left to wonder how many geniuses did not survive educational disasters." **John Curtis Gowan**

"Society has not given the same attention to the education of the genius

as has been given to other groups. We spend millions every year for the mentally retarded. The unfortunate child of superior intellect spends his time in a usual commonplace school assimilating a diet far below his expected capacity." **Josephine Concannon**

"It surely may be questioned whether geniuses like Mozart would have reached the prominence they did if they were kept from public performance or tournaments because that would be exploiting the child! It is also an abuse to withhold opportunities from precocious youngsters who are eager to advance and excel." **Sidney L. Pressey**

"All children are born geniuses, and we spend the first six years of their lives degeniusing them." **Buckminster Fuller**

"The world is always ready to receive talent with open arms. Very often it does not know what to do with genius." **Oliver Wendell Holmes**

Gifted

"Never in the nation's history has there been so vital a need for careful nurturance of the nation's gifted student pool. Never has there been so great a threat of annihilation of importance of values and mores. Never has there been such a dire need for better minds in so many increasingly complex problem areas of our national life." **Theodore E. Tetrault**

"It is known that the unrecognized gifted child is the one who is often punished rather than being rewarded for his abilities. The creative child is often able to do two or three things at once. Typically the teacher doesn't like this because in her estimation this child is not attending to the class lesson. Repeatedly the child is scolded and punished and banished from the group, when actually he isn't giving any real trouble." **Ann Issacs**

"By this refusal to recognize special gifts, we have wasted and dissipated, driven into apathy or schizophrenia, uncounted numbers of gifted children. If they learn easily, they are penalized for being bored when they have nothing to do; if they excel in some outstanding way, they are penalized for being conspicuously better than the peer group and teachers warn the gifted child, "yes, you can do that; it's much more interesting than what the others are doing. But, remember, the rest of the class will dislike you for it." **Margaret Mead**

"Gifted children, especially young ones, often have difficulty in making friends. So when a child becomes so absorbed in his own activities that he doesn't have friends, it's because he hasn't had a chance to make the right kind." **E. Paul Torrance**

"There are gifted children and, like other minorities, they need help. It may be difficult to grasp why children with the potential to achieve eminence should require special attention. To a very considerable extent, those individuals who constitute that "creative minority" in our society have achieved their eminence in spite of rather than because of our school system." **Dr. Harold C. Lyon, Jr**

"More often than not, children are unevenly gifted, often being especially gifted in one area. It's not uncommon to find them quite gifted in a specific area, but average or learning-disabled in another." **Ellen Winner**

"As with a disability, giftedness can lead to unhappiness and social isolation. With adult minds in children's bodies, profoundly gifted children tend to be persecuted by other children. They tend to find little commonality with their age peers, relating to older children or adults."

Ellen Winner

Grown-ups

"We need grown-ups who are also children, who speak the language of children's dreams." **Francois Debary**

Home

"The home is the principal learning environment for the child and parents are the primary educators." **Thomas Armstrong**

Homework

"Some children were not interested in attending school because there was too heavy an emphasis on homework. We should shift the focus of the school day away from homework and toward in-school learning." **Ibrahim**

Sobhan

Imagination

"The need for imagination, a sense of truth and a feeling of responsibility - - these are the three forces which are the very nerve of education."

Rudolf Steiner

Inspiration

"Encourage your child to appreciate the inspiration that surrounds him. Marvel at the power of the wind, the immensity of the ocean, the perfection of a snowflake, the night sky, or the rugged beauty of a mountain range." [Brenda Nixon](#)

Judgement

"Whenever we pass judgment on a child, we fail to see him as a whole person. True, he may be nervous, shy, stubborn, moody, or violent; we may know his siblings or his background, or think we recognize family traits. But to focus on any one aspect of a child, especially a negative one, is to put him in a box whose sides may not really be determined by reality, but only by our own expectations." **Johann Christoph Arnold**

Learning

"Real learning is a process of discovery and if we want it to happen, we must create the kind of conditions in which discoveries are made. We know what these are. They include time, leisure, freedom, and lack of pressure." **John Holt**

"Learning does not begin and end at the classroom door, but must be integrated into the lives of children, taking into account their home and community life. It needs to be a relevant, interesting experience for children whose attention can too often be diverted by television and video games." **Michele Jolin**

"When you create an environment where learning can happen, learning happens." **Maria Montessori**

"Seventy-five percent of teachers are sequential, and analytic presenters... and 70% of all their students do not learn that way." **Eric Jansen**

Mind

"The greatest invention in the world is the mind of a child." **Thomas Edison**

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled." **Plutarch**

"If we insist on looking at the rainbow of intelligence through a single filter, many minds will erroneously seem devoid of light." **Renee Fuller**

Music

"Music is the super-highway to the learning and memory system." **Terry Wyler Webb**

"Music provides nutrition for mind-body development. Learning to play music and developing rhythm is even better." **Don Campbell**

Parents

"I don't know if I'll have a share in the next world, But I want to have a share in the world of my children Their nostalgia for the future And mine for the past Pass parallel to each other Never meeting As if in a huge mistake Caused by a tunnel engineer." **Yehuda Amichai**

'Life is demanding with pressures squeezing from every side. Parenting, though, requires a lifetime investment. It's not something one can just do during commercial breaks or while driving the children to school.' **Scott Turansky & Joanne Miller**

"Parents should realize that it is better to bring children up as excited innovators and thinkers instead of unhappy and obedient followers."

Chong Sheau Ching

"As parents, we must refrain from showing favoritism, and from comparing our children with others. Above all, we must refrain from pushing them to become something that their unique personal makeup may never allow them to be." **Johann Christoph Arnold**

"But, when it comes to children, parental involvement is a must. This is because children often won't know they have an interest in something until after their parents bring it to their attention." **John Andersen**

"Mothers and kids are the most dynamic and exciting learning combination possible and have always been since mothers started that process a long time ago." **Glenn Doman**

Play

"Pretend-play helps the children to develop both emotional and cognitive competencies and to enhance their capacity or self-control." **Jerome**

Singer

"Children use play as a medium to create order and sense out of a seemingly chaotic world." **J. Huizinga**

"In pretend or make-believe play, imagination is given a full reign – this form of play stimulates the child's inventive rather than imitative abilities." **Dorothy G . Singer & Jerome L. Singer**

"Encourage your children's creativity by allowing him to get messy as he plays. Getting messy is a sign your child is curious with the world around him and using his senses to explore it. A child should start school associating learning with pleasure." **Dorothy Einon**

"Children who are good at using their imagination during creative play were better able to cope with stress later in life." **Sandra W. Russ**

"Play allows children an opportunity to express their fears, wishes, anxieties and joys that they experience in everyday life. This is especially helpful for those children who have not yet learned to verbalize their thoughts and feelings." **Miya Omori**

"Play is perhaps the most important element of human development. Play helps us develop a social sense, physical abilities and communicative skills." **Doris Bergen**

Playfulness

"Playfulness supports higher order learning., . Engagement, interaction and reflection are the key elements of a playful learning situation."

Nobuyuki Ueda

Reflection

"A student's capacity for concentration may be stimulated by an old-fashioned but increasingly rare practice: allowing time for reflection. But nowadays we always push people to think so fast, instead of letting them reflect." **Mikko Bojarsky**

"Knowledge and reflections are the pre-requisites for creativity and new learning. Both of these factors spur curiosity, make us explore, make us test the boundaries of what we already know about the world." **Eleonora**

Badilla Saxe

Schools

"Children enter schools as question marks and leave as periods." **Neil**

Postman

"The school has always been the most important means of transferring the wealth of tradition from one generation to the next. This applies today in an even higher degree than in former times, for through modern development of economic life, the family as bearer of tradition and education has become weakened. The continuance and health of human society is therefore in a still higher degree dependent on school than formally." **Albert Einstein**

"There has been much theorizing about the personal and social maladjustment of the mentally gifted child. Where such maladjustment's prevail, one finds that it is the fault of the school or home rather than of the child." **Karl C. Garrison**

"Probably one of the reasons why so many bright students lack interest in going on to higher education is the poverty of stimulation in the school program to which they have been exposed." **Dael Wolfe**

"Why should children with unusual abilities experience trouble with ordinary school curricula? Precisely because the curricula are ordinary."

Harold C. Lyon, Jr

"The point is to develop the childlike inclination for play and the childlike desire for recognition and to guide the child over to important fields for society. Such a school demands from the teacher that he be a kind of artist in his province." **Albert Einstein**

"Bear in mind that the wonderful things that you learn in your schools are the work of many generations, produced by enthusiastic effort and infinite labour in every country of the world. All this is put into your hands as your inheritance in order that you may receive it, honor it, and add to it, and one day faithfully hand it on to your children." **Albert Einstein**

"To me the worst thing seems to be a school principally to work with methods of fear, force and artificial authority. Such treatment destroys the sound sentiments, the sincerity and the self-confidence of pupils and produces a subservient subject." **Albert Einstein**

"All of us, you, your children, your neighbors and their children are everyday geniuses, even though the fact is unnoticed and unremembered by everyone. That's probably because school hasn't encouraged us to notice what's hidden inside us waiting for the right environment to express itself." **Peter Kline**

"Our schools need to explore more opportunities for creativity. Parents need to provide children an environment conducive to independent thinking." **Stan Shih**

Swimming

"Underwater swimming stimulates what marine biologists call the mammalian diving response. When we dive, the body increases blood flow not only to the brain but to every other major organ as well. This response is common to all mammals and may partially explain why whales and dolphins - perhaps the champion breath holders of all time - have evolved brains as complex and powerful as our own." **Win Wenger**

"Underwater swimming improves the physical condition of your brain and is an easy way to increase intelligence, even your own already-high intelligence." **Win Wenger**

"I have a special way of holding my breath and swimming underwater - that's when I come up with my best ideas. I've created a Plexiglas writing pad so that I can stay underwater and record these ideas. I call it "creative swimming." **Yoshiro Nakamatsu**

Teachers

"Most teachers waste their time by asking questions which are intended to discover what a pupil does not know, whereas the true art of questioning has for its purpose to discover what the pupil knows or is capable of knowing." **Albert Einstein**

"Humiliation and mental oppression by ignorant and selfish teachers wreak havoc in the youthful mind that can never be undone and often exert a baleful influence in later life." **Albert Einstein**

"Teaching should be such that what is offered is perceived as a valuable gift and not as a hard duty." **Albert Einstein**

Technology

"New technological tools should be seen as the digital equivalent of Froebel's set of gifts. Like the gifts, new technological tools should support children's efforts to explore and make sense of the world."*

Mitchel Resnick

* Note: Froebel created the world's first kindergarten.

"Used as creative tools, the new technology not only let children be creative in new ways, it also lets them learn about new things. It opens new doors – and every time you go through a new door, something unexpected and enriching can happen." **Stevanne Auerbach**

"What's the matter with kids today? Their lives are so busy, so structured, and so infused with digital technology that they have no time for fun. . One consequence of this development is that their imaginations are beginning to atrophy." **Ted Klauber**

Television

"Television is 'the test of the modern world'. Used correctly, it can inform, entertain and inspire. Used incorrectly, television will control families and community, limiting our language, dreams and achievements. It is our 'test' to pass or fail." **Jim Trelease**

Theatre

"The methods and ideas should be focused on the development of creativity, fantasy, personal identity, awareness, and confidence of the children, achieved by means of theatre." **Yoke Elbers**

"Theatre gives the children and the young confidence in their own creative powers and giving them self confidence is an important goal." **Anne**

Bjorvik

Thinkers

"Focus should be to encourage and develop creativity in all children without the ultimate goal being to make all children inventors, but rather to develop a future generation of critical thinkers." **Faraq Mousa**

Toys

"The only thing an intelligent child can do with a complete toy is take it

apart. An incomplete toy lets children use their imaginations. Raw materials challenge children's spatial creativity." **John Bloom**

"When kids as young as first grade get drawing assignments, they all end up drawing toys they see on TV instead of coming up with their own creative ideas and symbols. Apparently toys made from movie and cartoon features do little for the child's creativity." **Nancy Calsson-Paige**

"Children who are allowed to explore regard a toy as a toy or tool as a chance to be active, along the lines of 'what can I do with this toy?' . Those children will manipulate the tools to create play, stories and subsequently something which is meaningful to them." **Maria Montessori**

Recommended Websites

<http://www.nncc.org/> National network for childcare

<http://www.naeyc.org/resources/eyly/default.asp>

<http://www.parentpwr.com/>

<http://www.zerotothree.org/> Excellent site for those people raising children from zero to three years old

<http://www.newbergkids.com/creativity-tips.htm> Tips for the Creativity and Spirit of Kids. Have Fun! Be Creative! Encourage a creative environment!

<http://www.spiritualparenting.com/> Five ways to raise joyful kids.

http://www.roadtoreading.org/personal/brain_power.html

<http://www.parents.org.uk/>

<http://www.nigcc.org/> a list of classroom problems of gifted/creative children. You will find the creative trait of intuition listed

<http://www.giraffe.org/kidspage.html>

<http://whatkidscando.org/home.html>

www.celebratingonline.com/qed/intro.asp

<http://www.innovated.gov.au/> Innovated is a free, educational resource aimed at helping Australian teachers uncover their student's own creativity and imagination. It reveals the ideas that shape the world we live in and emphasizes the value of creativity and the very real opportunities it generates.

<http://www.allianceforchildhood.net/>

<http://www.nfgcc.org/d.htm> The National Foundation For Gifted And Creative Children

<http://www.childresearch.net/>

<http://www.mannersoftheheart.com/> For more ideas on teaching children about good manners and attitudes

<http://www.parentpwr.com>

http://www.crayola.com/parents/powercreativity/tips_for_raising_kids.cf

[m_5 Tips for Raising Creative Kids](#)

<http://www.thelearningweb.net/index.html>

7 Reasons Why You Must Read This Book

1. Nurtures your children's inborn creativity for success and happiness
2. Inspires you to be a more creative parent or teacher
3. Strengthens the bond between you and your children
4. Encourages you to observe your children's antics as a source of amusement and understanding of your children's creativity
5. Equips you with the tools for Creative Parenting
6. Provides you with gems of creative wisdom of educationists, psychologists and other prominent personalities in YKK Quotes to Nurture Creative Children
7. Enlightens you about why the so-called problem children are unpolished diamonds in disguise in the section In Praise Of Black Sheep.

Feedback from a Parent

Dr. YKK

Hi,

I'm Azlina from Kuching, Sarawak. I have bought and read your book - Nurturing Creative Children. The book has helped me a lot in discovering my children's hidden side.

Now, I see them differently and have learned to accept their mischievous behaviors as 'normal' and part of learning in the growing up process. But the section on - IN PRAISE OF BLACK SHEEP in particular has been an eye opener to me.

I have an eight year old partially sighted daughter and she's the black sheep of the family! She is very vocal, stubborn, violent sometimes and always getting on everybody's nerves. Before I read your book, punishment seemed to give temporary solutions in dealing with her unacceptable behavior. Now, I realize that I shouldn't.

But, I believe in being late than never tried at all. I've tried as suggested in your book, praising her when she behaved well or did something good and it works WONDERS!

She has changed from a difficult child to the good child. She hugs me and says thank you to even the smallest things that I do for her, like reading a bedtime story or pouring her favorite juice into a glass. I talk to her more often and I now constantly tell her that she is special to me and that I love her just like I love her sisters. She's now more open in expressing her feelings towards the family members and the teachers at her special school have also noticed the changes in her.

Through your book also, I have discovered that I have a dreamer and a discoverer at home and my dreamer is an extra sensitive child. So, any coming book on how to handle an extra sensitive child?

Again, I would like to thank you for sharing this information with society. I believe many have benefited from your writing.

Your book, written in a straight-forward and simple language provides great insights into my children's world. The activities are great too and my children love most of them.

The book has touched me deeply and has certainly made me a better mother - to value the God given treasures and not to take them for granted!

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN.

Azlina Ghazali

Mother & University lecturer

[Another eBookWholesaler Publication](#)