

Day 1 The Importance of Imagination

BY Karen Whiting

Imagination is everything. It is the preview for life's coming attractions. Albert Einstein

For adults, imagination helps a person visualize their goals and reach them. For moms, envisioning how they want a room to look is the first step to making it a reality. Imagination helps us dream big, but that also means we must be willing to risk failure. So, for our children, we need to help them see failure as a step in the process of reaching goals and continue to encourage them to imagine.

Our imagination can motivate us to try something new and work toward a goal. A child who wants to build a fort and imagines it from a sheet and a table, can start making it and then rejoice in the outcome. If it collapses they can figure out a better way to rebuild it. That develops persistence and the ability to imagine solutions.

Decline in Creativity

Some studies indicate that creativity has declined in America since the 1990s. Children show naturally creativity at young ages. Listen to children learning to talk. They often invent words and that's innovative. However, adults temper that down with teaching the correct rules of speech and the proper words to use. Afterall, that helps us understand what they are saying.

Conformity suppresses creativity and innovation. As long as children look at the world with curiosity and explore what interests them, they will be creative. Whenever people need something that's not handy, they tend to invent something to use. When we watch shows such as Shark, we realize there is a lot of innovation and that such shows motivate people to be creative. The biggest inspiration for creativity and innovation remains encouragement. When we praise children for creativity that fuels their creative souls.

Fueling Creativity

Creativity takes one early step to be ready to be creative. One must have some knowledge. A child needs to know how to use blocks and how to stack them or line them up. Then they can make creative block buildings. Later in life as a child learns about wood and tools to cut, shape, smooth, and put wooden pieces together, they can be creative in carpentry. Or someone who learns about fabrics and sewing or yarn and knitting, can then design creative fashions and make them. Thus, once a person understands a problem or materials and techniques to create things, they can imagine something new and create it.

Another component of inspiring creativity is allowing time and having supplies to nurture experiences that promote the imagination and inventiveness of children.

This can also include imaginary play with simple puppets such as finger puppets and hand puppets. A great resource for finger puppets that can be enlarged to make hand puppets is Finger Puppet Mania that I wrote and use on my TV show, Puppets on Parade. They can be made with paper or felt.



[Buy Finger Puppet Mania](#)

Imaginative Play

Imaginative play comes easy to children. Read a book about pirates and give them a pirate costume and play sword, and they will become a pirate for the day. As they impersonate people they gain insight into people and careers, plus they learn the vocabulary associated with those careers. Such play may seem trivial, but that's how children can later as adults imagine overcoming problems, survive disasters, and create new inventions or solutions to problems. Beyond being creative, it works best to set some goals and plans.

Future Success

An old Harvard study revealed that people who wrote their goals and posted them reached them far more than people who did not. In writing the goal, the individual had already imagined it as a possibility. That's one of the keys to success in life. So, encourage imagination and creativeness.

As children grow, let their imagination engage in science fair projects and experiments. Notice interests and help them develop the skills needed to build on the interest. They also will need perseverance to continue practicing and mastering the skills. But, then they can use their imagination to create something new.

On the flip side, many people seem baffled at what others achieve and success of people who dreamed big. They have not learned to tap into their imagination and creativity to make and reach dreams.

The Apostle Paul's Creative Approaches

Look at the Apostle Paul who never gave up on His call to spread the gospel. He had a dream God gave him, but he used his imagination to show people the reality of the dream. He looked at a statue to an unknown God and shared with people who that unknown God was and how they could know him. He realized people liked sports and used that to share about aiming for a higher prize, an eternal one. He sat in a ship in a storm and relied on hope and showed the men what trusting God means. He sat in prison and rejoiced at the opportunity for his work to spread wider since that gave him access to soldiers and government officials. His imagination helped him overcome obstacles. He was bit by a snake and lived, and shared with native in Malta that God is bigger than our fears when we have big dreams.

Inspiring imagination and watching children grow in creativity can be exciting and fun for the whole family to celebrate.