



February 2014

Save the date!

ACSI Early Education Conference dates and locations for 2014 are listed below:

February 22, 2014

Greenbrier in Chesapeake, VA

March 6–7, 2014

Doubletree Resort in Lancaster, PA

March 14, 2014

Gordon College in Wenham, MA

May 2–3, 2014

Biola University in LaMirada, CA

ACSI premium

Registration for EE conferences will include a complimentary subscription to ConNEXUS Premium, which provides access to 35 channels featuring over 500 hours of professional development. The complimentary subscription to ConNEXUS Premium is available upon registration through October 24, 2014.



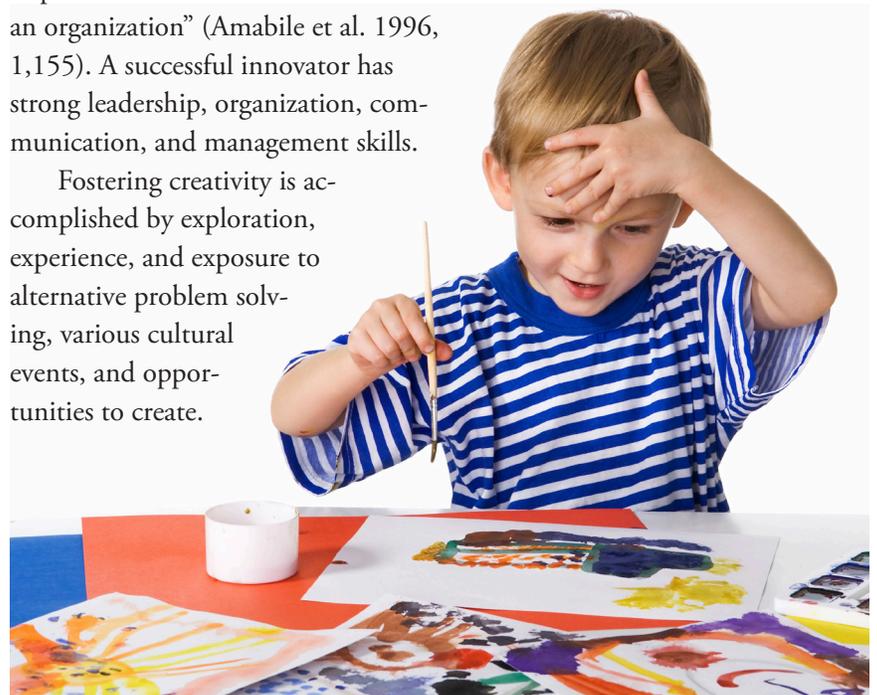
Art: Foster Creativity in Children

What is art? Art can be defined through the means of traditional, conventional, institutional, and historical aesthetics. Art has been defined for the purpose of communicating, entertaining, expressing political change, expressing religious beliefs, socially inquiring, spreading propaganda, commercializing, and as a means of providing psychological healing. Art has been subcategorized into style, genre, and elements and principles of design. God is our Creator, and He made us in His image; therefore, we are creators as well. Art allows us to express ourselves and re-create the beauty of our God. As educators it is our responsibility to foster creativity into the minds of children through art and exploration. By fostering creativity into children (starting at birth), you will be structuring minds of innovative success.

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According to Wikipedia, “Creativity is a mental and social process involving the generation of new ideas or concepts” (2009). Creativity builds upon the ability to be innovative. “We define innovation as the successful implementation of creative ideas within an organization” (Amabile et al. 1996, 1,155). A successful innovator has strong leadership, organization, communication, and management skills.

Fostering creativity is accomplished by exploration, experience, and exposure to alternative problem solving, various cultural events, and opportunities to create.



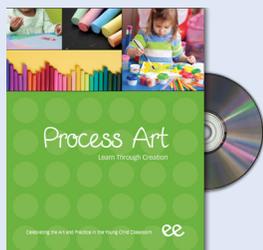
Need inspiration for your art curriculum?

Let ACSI inspire you with resources and training opportunities!

Resources on ConNEXUS:

Center Poster—Posters—Art
Achievement Certificate—Creativity
Certificate Template

Purposeful Design Training Module



*Process Art:
Learn Through
Creation—
Engaging
activities to
renew your love
of process art*

Product Code: 6633

ISBN Number: 978-1-58331-392-3

Professional Development Training

Clock Hours: Eight

The life of a preschooler includes the creation of art and original ideas. Young children are full of imagination, and teachers have the opportunity to give them an avenue to express themselves through this medium. This training component, used for in-service training or for individual development, shows what young children are capable of when given the chance to create.

Learn how to provide children with the inspiration, materials, guidance, and tools to be creative. The process of creating is more beneficial than the final product. That's Process Art—art that places the emphasis on the learning taking place.

Three Ways to Foster Creativity in Children

First, guide children to explore the world around them. Interview them about various things they encounter. Ask them what they think the painting is of? Why are dinosaur bones white? How is a flower made? Let them answer or manipulate without correction and encourage them to use their imagination and to create a story of their own.

Second, encourage your children to explore and play with everyday items. Fill a large plastic bin with beans and kitchen utensils and watch as their innovative minds explore these everyday objects. Give children unconventional art supplies like noodles, dry dog food, or a toilet-paper roll and allow them to create a design.

Third, introduce children to artworks and art media. Allow them to evaluate and view different artworks. Art media should consist of watercolors, pastels, cutting, and pasting. Art may be guided in subject matter or instruction, but it should allow them to add their own individualism in color, style, and drawing.

Allow children to capitalize on their ideas, give broad boundaries, and allow the process to take over what they create. When fostering creativity with your child, remember to be a role model, actively engage, and allow for messes. “All innovation begins with creative ideas,” and all creative ideas begin with an opportunity (Amabile et al. 1996, 1,154).



Reference

Amabile, Teresa M., Regina Conti, Heather Coon, Jeffrey Lazenby, and Michael Herron. 1996. Assessing the work environment for creativity. *Academy of Management Journal* 39, no. 5 (October): 1154–1184.

Janessa Tamsett and **Jessica Basile** are the founders of Academy of Art, LLC, a Colorado company that provides art enrichment programs, curriculum, and workshops for ages three through adult using a variety of art media. Academy of Art focuses on traditional art methods, terms, and techniques that stem from ancient art cultures to present day. To learn more, visit www.academyofart.us.

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