

What is Creativity?

We believe that creativity is a way of approaching the world which exists within each and every one of us - that it is a habit of mind which can be nurtured and developed regardless of subject area or situation. It is the ability to wonder and question, to explore and investigate, to play with possibilities and use our imaginations.

Early Years learners have a naturally inquisitive nature and sense of wonder which, when given creative learning opportunities, environments and engagement, can stimulate children's development and natural curiosity to learn and explore.

A useful reference for developing creative learning within the Early Years setting is the Creative Habits of Mind developed from the work of Guy Claxton, Bill Lucas and Ellen Spencer of the Centre of Real World Learning at Winchester University (2013).

This helps learners, practitioners and creative professionals to:

- Develop a shared language of creativity
- Reflect, self-assess and value their own creative skills and dispositions
- Be more self aware of when they are using their creative skills
- Seek opportunities to develop the creativity of their pupils



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5 Creative Habits of Mind

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4 Step Guide: Being Creative Outdoors

Be Inspired by the Outdoors

Look at your outdoor learning space and beyond...

- What does it offer?
- What can you see? hear? smell? touch?
- What themes come to mind?

Work Together

- What ideas can you offer?
- What could your community offer?
- What ideas do your learners have to offer?

Be Creative

- Consider the creative habits: Imaginative, Persistent, Collaborative, Inquisitive, Disciplined.
- Focus on a creative habit you wish to explore and develop...
- What outdoor activities can you invent using the creative habits?

Reflect Continuously

- What have you learnt?
- Would you do anything differently next time?
- What would that be?
- How can you explore creative learning further in the outdoors?

**Imagination: Do you sometimes
see animals in the sky?**





Imagination: Have you ever made your own toys from something you have found outside?



**Imagination: Do you believe
in magical creatures?**

**Imagination: What animal
would you like to be?**





**Imagination: Where is your
favourite place to hide?**



Inquisitive: What do you like to smell?



Inquisitive: What noises do you hear when you go outside?



Inquisitive: Have you ever found a shell on the beach?



Inquisitive: What feels good to touch?

**Inquisitive: Have you ever
found footprints?**





**Disciplined:
What games can you
invent outside?**



Disciplined: Have you ever written your name in the sand/earth?

**Disciplined: What do
you like to build with?**





Disciplined: Have you ever spent time making something?



Disciplined: Have you ever planted something to grow?



Collaborative: Can we build a den?

**Collaborative:
How can we
build a home for
minibeasts?**



Collaborative: How can we help to feed the birds?





Collaborative: Have you ever helped anyone who needed your help?



Collaborative: Have you made a picture together with things you found outside?



**Persistent: Can you play
outside in the rain?**

**Persistent: What do you
play in the snow?**





Persistent: Have you practiced something until you learn how to do it?



Persistent: Have you ever mended something that was broken?



Persistent: What journey do you know really well?

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