

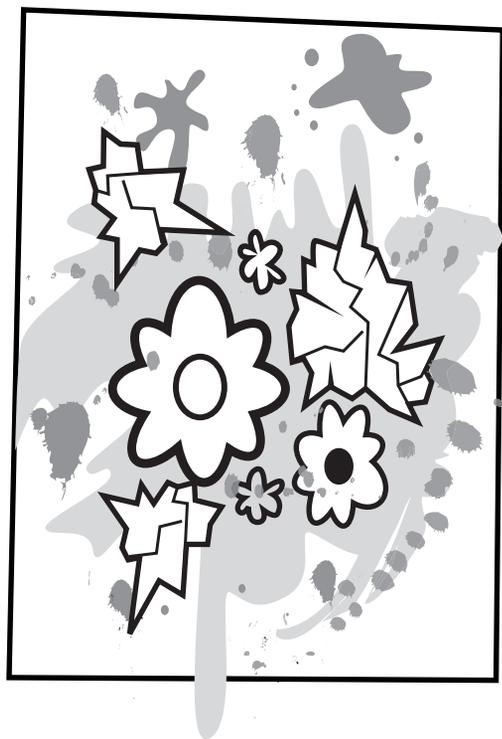


# Creatively Created



“I praise you because  
I am fear-fully and  
wonderfully made”  
(Psalm 139:14a).

- How can you encourage individual creativity in your children?
- What specific talents do your students possess? How can you promote those talents?



## ▼ Training Session

You've placed a sample craft in front of your children. You've gone over all the directions—step by step—showing children how to tear cotton balls and place them in a row on the clouds, glue the green tissue paper on the bottom of the picture, and stick the cut-out flowers on top of the green tissue paper. You've done everything you can to help kids make a perfect craft.

So you can't understand why little Monica is proudly showing you her picture with the cotton balls, tissue paper, and flowers glued in a lump in the middle of the page. Wasn't she listening at *all*?

As a teacher, this is a moment where you have several options. You could tell Monica she needs to move her cotton balls and tissue paper. “Look at the sample craft,” you could say, pointing out that the cut-out flowers go at the bottom with the green tissue paper. Then you could send Monica back to her table to try again.

Or you could choose to respond with love and pride when you see Monica's *unique* and *personal* craft. You could praise her for her creativity and imagination. You could ask her to explain her craft to you, and seek to understand why she mixed up the cotton balls and the green tissue paper. You might be surprised to discover that Monica loves colors all mixed together or that this is her idea of the new heaven and earth.

When you choose the second option, you're embracing creativity in your classroom. You're allowing children to express themselves and giving yourself the chance to learn more about your children. But to embrace this option, you must accept this truth: The best crafts are those that encourage creativity. Everyone's craft will look different...and that's OK.

Children don't learn through making perfect crafts. They learn through the process of creating and through debriefing the process.

Make creativity a priority in your classroom by allowing kids to use your arts and crafts time as an opportunity to express themselves and their growing friendships with God.



## Take this training deeper as you think over these questions:

- What kinds of crafts allow kids to express themselves creatively? What kinds of crafts don't? (Hint: Avoid step-by-step crafts...embrace the abstract!)
- How can you help kids take ownership of their crafts?
- When are some other times in your classroom, besides arts and crafts, that you can encourage personal creativity?

### ▼ Journal

*I feel creatively inspired when...*

**Have you ever just really looked at a rhinoceros? Talk about evidence of God's creativity! God is a creative God, and God created us in his image...which means God created us to be creative! Your classroom is the perfect place to encourage and inspire the God-given gift of creativity in your children!**

### ▼ Application

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Think of an object like a rose or a fish, and draw or paint it on a piece of paper. Then use the Internet to look up different artistic renditions of that object. You'll quickly find that no two artists (including you!) saw the object the same way.

Art is so amazing because it gives us so many different windows or views on the world. There would be no point in art if every artist drew a tree or a sunset in the same way. We're inspired and enriched by the arts because of the personal creativity evident in each piece.