

# Q&A

## ENABLING CHILDREN'S INNATE CURIOSITY AND CREATIVITY TO FLOURISH.

FOR PARENTS



### Q How can I develop creativity in my six-month-old infant?

We live in rapidly changing times, and children will have to navigate uncharted territory and face challenges we have never faced before. These situations require creative minds to address the many issues. It is never too early to practise creative parenting, which is about challenging traditional ways of looking at children's development. For instance, rather than simply checking out enrichment programmes for your infant, explore different and better ways of nurturing their creativity.

Some tips to embrace creative parenting:

- 1. Support the use of open-ended play materials.** Materials such as blocks, dough, fabric, sand and water stimulate curiosity. They provide infants with endless possibilities to manipulate, experiment and create. Vary materials regularly and include figurines and toy vehicles to foster imagination.
- 2. Have conversations and ask open-ended questions.** Describe your actions as you are playing with your baby. This develops language and communication skills and builds vocabulary. Reflect on the play with questions like "What can baby do now?" or "What is another way to ...?" to stimulate thinking and creative play.
- 3. Acknowledge and praise openly.** Mirror your baby's response when he or she responds with facial expressions, gestures or coos during play. This builds your child's self-esteem and instils confidence. More importantly, it makes playtime fun and exciting.

### Q What are some key considerations for fostering an innovative mindset through experiential learning?

Children have an innate desire to explore, discover and try new things. Cultivate their natural curiosity and provide sensory-rich experiences to help them discover the world and people around them. Help them learn by actively engaging their senses to explore, experiment and create.

Here are some ways educators can support children's experiential learning.

- **Open up play possibilities.** Let children use a variety of materials, including nature-based elements such as flowers and leaves, in any way desired. Open play taps into their personal experiences, creativity and imagination.
- **Give them time and space.** Give children the freedom to explore. Provide movable play equipment and materials. Children can follow their imagination and synthesise materials into their play narratives. For instance, fallen leaves could be fish going down a river, or a stick plunged into mud could be a garden to be watered.
- **Trust them to do it.** Let children design spaces or investigate materials the way they want. If they make a mistake, they can identify the issue and do something to put it right. This builds self-confidence as they learn more about themselves, solve problems, communicate, collaborate and negotiate with one another, and express their innovative ideas.



FOR EDUCATORS



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