

## Creativity for Kids: Tips for Nurturing Creativity

Inventors, scientists, and mathematicians are all creative problem solvers. Creativity is an important characteristic to foster in your child. Fostering a creative spirit will help your child experience identifying a problem and coming up with new ideas for solving it. Here are some tips and suggestions for nurturing your child's imagination and creativity:

### Spend time outdoors.

The benefits of nature for child development are endless. Because nature is ever-changing, it provides countless opportunities for discovery and problem-solving. The natural world inspires children to think, question, make suggestions, and develop creative minds. Children can draw in sand, make designs with sticks, build forts with branches, or simply lie on the ground and look up at the sky.

### Invent scenarios.

When your child invents a scenario, he tries on lots of different roles and explores his thoughts while developing social and verbal skills. If your child is into superheroes, think of the powers your child might want as a superhero. Encourage your child to create a new superhero!

### Encourage art activities.

Art is creative expression that nurtures imagination, not a lesson in following directions. Through painting, sculpture, collage, clay, drawing or any other form, art is a way for children to work through emotions, make decisions, and share their ideas. Manipulating art materials provides a sense of freedom yet also encourages focus and concentration. Art activities also develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Furthermore, art activities build confidence because children gain a sense of mastery over materials resulting in a new creation.

### Weave creativity into common everyday experiences.

Creativity can happen anywhere. Use common everyday experiences to encourage creativity. For example, draw a map of a restaurant on Mars on a piece of paper along when you go out to eat. Encourage your children to draw a picture of a restaurant on Mars and share it with you.

### Make mistakes

Did you know that Silly Putty was discovered accidentally when the General Electric Company attempted to find a substitute for rubber during World War II? Over 200 million plastic eggs, containing 3,000 tons of Silly Putty, have been sold. Many inventions come from what feels like a mistake. Help your child understand that mistakes provide opportunities to learn. It will help if you share mistakes you have made recently too!

### Share literacy activities.

Make reading time memorable and discuss other possible scenarios or endings for the story by using your child's imagination. Make up stories with your child, and let your child be the main character; other times propose moral dilemmas. Try making up a continuing story.

### Ask open-ended and thought-provoking questions.

Asking questions that provoke imaginative thinking is an effective way to invite your child to express his ideas and share his visions, while giving him the message that his ideas are important. "What do you think would happen if we had flying cars?" "How do you think we would live if we had flying cars?" "What do you think we would do if we had flying cars?" "What do you think we would do if we had flying cars?" "What do you think we would do if we had flying cars?"

### Remember to allow for down time.

Unstructured, unscheduled time allows children opportunities to imagine and create.



Students learn about the anatomy of grasshopper during the Tech Learning Lab at HergstMyTime Program



Students in the MyTime Program at Greatman Elementary enjoyed all of the interactive activities during their recent visit to the Aurora Sci Tech Museum.



**FREE AND LOW COST FAMILY EVENTS**

**MY TIME VAUGHAN ATHLETIC CENTER**

# Family Time & Fitness Fest

**SUNDAY • 5 - 7 p.m. February 23, 2020**

**FREE ADMISSION!**  
MyTime families are invited to an evening of family fun at Vaughan Athletic Center!  
2121 W. Indian Trail, Aurora, IL 60506

**Return RSVP form to your coordinator by Feb. 14**  
Event not open to the public, for MyTime families only.

**GET THE WHOLE FAMILY MOVING!**

- **SWIM** - Leisure pool open! Bring a swimsuit, towel and lock for lockers.
- **SPORTS** - MVP Sports and Nike Games in the fieldhouse.
- **FAMILY FITNESS** - Zumba and Healthy Fit Kids in the fieldhouse.
- **TOURS** - Preview the facility and fitness center.
- **NUTRITION DEMOS** - AMITA HEALTH VNA Health.com
- **TENNIS**




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where fun begins.org

MY TIME

Communities In Schools

West Aurora School District 129



**FLASH LIGHT READING AT McCLEERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**




**Estudiantes de McCleery durante su visita al Museo SciTech**

**Don't Forget! Sun. Feb 23, a fun day at the Vaughan Center Exclusively for MyTime Families.**

**FVPD Makerspace Event**

Do you like to craft, design, or make inventions? Come over to Red Oak for our special crafting days where you will have access to a variety of supplies to help bring your creations to life. Register online. \$5  
**Monday, February 17, 2020**  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Read Oak Nature Center, Batavia IL 60510

**FAMILY FUN DAY – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2020**

**VAUGHAN ATHLETIC CENTER**

Don't miss out on all of the FREE entertainment. Games, program demos, inflatables, food & raffles!

**FREE! FAMILY FUN FAIR**



Saturday, Feb 15



# JOB FAIR

## OPPORTUNITY

**SATURDAY, FEB. 22 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M.**

**PRISCO COMMUNITY CENTER 150 W. ILLINOIS AVE., AURORA**



**YOUR OPPORTUNITY BEGINS NOW!**

Find the right fit with a flexible, rewarding experience with the nationally-acclaimed Fox Valley Park District. We're looking for:

**Teens • Adults • College Students • Retirees**

Apply for and get information on a number of open, mostly seasonal, positions. Opportunities are available in parks and grounds, recreation, community centers, camps, aquatics and much more.

**YOU'RE INVITED TO**

- Meet park district staff and supervisors looking to hire seasonal help
- Find the right opportunity to suit your needs
- Learn about the perks and benefits we offer
- Bring your resume and highlight your strengths




Complete a brief Job Fair Application **ONLINE** to prepare for the event. Bring it with you to assist our introductory interviews.

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