

CREATIVITY and the CHILD

Sudarshan S. Benegal

Children have within them an unspoiled reservoir for expression and creativity. They have freshness and Simplicity and a Natural Spontaneity which expresses itself in the work.

We must give them time to proceed in their own way. Ideas flow when the children are given the opportunity to let their ideas appear to them. Sometimes no comment is needed when a child paints or draws – Just Watch.

Children desire to paint ideas they have about colour, size and shape – what they think about their surroundings.

We must remember that habits are being developed and attitudes are being formed. Each child's environment and background dictates the kind of subjects they should be encouraged to tackle. We must get to know children individually as soon and as informally as possible.

Some children have low threshold levels of tolerance – and become frustrated easily if their work does not turn out as they expect.

We must select appropriate materials. Some find crayons to their liking – others are more at home with Water Colours. Usually it is sensible to let them try crayons in the beginning – as they are easy to handle and give out bright and inviting hues.

Our zeal for order and step by step levels of instruction imposes the demand for neatness too soon in young children's art. It can destroy the very quality we want to preserve in young children – CREATIVITY.

One should retain a balance of perspective when giving instructions nor should we praise someone's work in a manner that suggests that the child has done the only acceptable product. This will inhibit the other children.

Encouraging them to try new IDEAS will make them acquire an attitude of self confidence and enjoyment. We must help children notice the beauty, shape, colour and line in the objects around them in Nature.

Art contributes to the child's use of his imagination.

