

Love's Creative SPARKS!

USE YOUR IMAGINATION TO
CREATE AND INNOVATE!

LESSON 3: FINDING ANSWERS TO YOUR PROBLEM

First you have to believe a problem is solvable and be willing to take some risk...

Most dictionaries define innovation as introducing something new or different. Sometimes, that's what we need to find solutions to pressing problems. AND to introduce something brand new - to innovate - we have to be willing to take a risk. Anyone developing a new product, service or idea risks that it will not work, that someone else will get there first, or that others will not like the notion. Who's ready to take a risk and suggest a new idea?

Teaching risk taking in preparing young people for the future is often overlooked by educators even though it is a core skill needed in society. Learning about risk taking can help young people to make essential life decisions. It can help them to evaluate alternative courses of action and can build confidence. The experience of failure, as a result of risk taking in a safe environment, can help to build resilience to setbacks and help young people to manage risk better in the future. So, teachers, here are some ideas to help foster a safe classroom climate where risk taking is encouraged.

CREATIVITY IS:

- A skill that everyone has
- Used every day
- Essential to have in the 21st century
- The process of having an original thought or idea that can be put into action

CREATIVITY IS NOT:

- Something only a few people have
- Just for the "arts" such as drawing, writing or singing

>>Activities

1. Draw or write about taking a risk. What is it? How is a risk different from a rule?
2. Form groups in your class and perform a problem-solving activity such as the classic Marshmallow Challenge. Each group is given spaghetti, string, masking tape, and a marshmallow and asked to build the tallest freestanding structure. For complete directions see The Marshmallow Challenge at <http://marshmallowchallenge.com/>.
3. Interview someone in your learning community and ask them to describe a time when they took a risk that paid off. Share your findings with the class and talk about what you learned that will help you find a solution for the problem you want to address.
4. Present the campaign that you created in Lesson 2 to your class. Then, form groups to discuss possible solutions to your problems. Are any of your solutions similar? How do others see the issue differently? Can their perspective be used to create a better solution? Be sure to give your classmates credit in your final presentation.



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