Creative Activities for Young Children

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Session Title: Creative Activities for Young Children

Delivery Mode: In-Person

Descriptor: This session will define creative activities, explain the critical value of creative activities in the development for the whole child, provide information and techniques for how to appropriately develop it and how to integrate it with other developmental domains, and provide brief overview of developmental stages of art. Further, information regarding the place of creativity in the early childhood curriculum, necessary material, strategies, and furnishings will be covered. Lastly, there will be numerous hands-on creative experiences and take-away resources for using “best practices” in their classrooms.

Overall learning outcome(s) for CEU Session: At the end of the 5-hour sessions, participants will be able to define, plan, and evaluate developmentally appropriate creative activities for children from infancy through age 12. Participants will be able to articulate the value of creative thinking activities in child development programs. Upon completion, participants will have a beginning resource file of activities and materials for use with young children.

Pre-assessment strategy: Brief survey of understanding of developmentally appropriate creative activities for young children

DCD Topic Area(s) to be covered: 2, 3, & 8


Supplemental Materials/References: Computer/online access, tables and water access for hands-on activities, papers, paints, markers, crayons, old early childhood catalogues, DVD Player, Developmentally Appropriate Practices (3rd edition), Creative Activities for Young Children by Mary Mayesky, Bev Bos books, NAEYC and other publications and resources

Standards/Guidelines addressed: NCCCS ECE Competencies for EDU 151; NAEYC Associate Degree Accreditation Standards
## CEU Session Outline

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| Module 1: Introduction/Basics (1 hour) | Participants will be able to define creativity and explain the critical role of creative activities in the development of the whole child. | Lecture  
Identify basic terms  
Group discussions  
Group activities  
Hands-on activities  
Video (Bev Bos) | Contribute to discussions  
Share experiences  
Ask questions  
Actively participate  
Read printed materials as assigned  
Complete assignments | Initial pre-test to determine understanding of topic  
Questions/discussions throughout  
Reflective writing |
| **Homework:** Make assigned play dough recipe (variety of recipes provided) and bring to following session. |
| Module 2: Skills, Techniques, and Integration (1 hour) | Participants will develop basic skills and techniques for fostering creative development and identify how to integrate it with other developmental domains (physical, social, emotional, cognitive) and classroom centers. | Lecture  
Group discussions  
Group activities  
Hands-on activities  
**Homework:** Collect several examples of children’s artwork (infancy through age 12) and bring to following session. | Contribute to discussions  
Share experiences  
Ask questions  
Actively participate  
Read printed materials as assigned  
Complete assignments | Questions/discussions throughout  
Reflective writing |
| Module 3: Developmental Stages of Art (1 hour) | Participants will be able to identify and describe basic, universal developmental stages of art. | Lecture  
Group discussions  
Group activities  
Hands-on activities | Contribute to discussions  
Share experiences  
Ask questions  
Actively participate  
Read printed materials as assigned  
Complete assignments | Questions/discussions throughout  
Reflective writing |
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| Module 4: Creativity in the Curriculum (1 hour) | Participants will identify opportunities for fostering creativity in the early childhood curriculum; will be introduced to the development of Activity Plans and prop boxes. | Lecture  
Group discussions  
Group activities  
Hands-on activities  
**Homework:** Using the activity plan template provided, craft an activity plan for assigned area/age group and bring to next session. | Contribute to discussions  
Share experiences  
Ask questions  
Actively participate  
Read printed materials as assigned  
Complete assignments | Questions/discussions throughout  
Reflective writing |
Module 5: Establishing a Creative Environment (1 hour)

Participants will identify necessary materials, strategies, and furnishings necessary for establishing and supporting developmentally appropriate creative activities.

Review basic terms, concepts, and appropriate implementation of creative activities for young children.

Lecture:
- Group discussions
- Plan/draw supportive environment for developing creativity in young children
- Review ECE catalogues (i.e., Kaplans, Lakeshore, etc.) and develop purchase order lists
- Hands-on activities

Contribute to discussions
- Share experiences
- Ask questions
- Actively participate
- Read printed materials as assigned
- Complete assignments

Questions/discussions throughout
- Student self-evaluation of completed activity with children
- Reflective writing
- Post-test

Total Time: 5, 1-hour modules (May be combined into one five-hour session or divided as necessary. Any sessions that will meet for longer than one hour should build in breaks as well.)