



Importance of Creativity and Safety in Schools

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Article Info.

Received on 9 may 2014
Revised on 16 May 2014
Accepted on 16 May 2014

Keywords:

Importance, Creativity,
Safety, School

ABSTRACT

Creative people invent, imagine, problem-solve, create, and communicate in fresh, new ways. Every business requires creative thinkers in the form of scientists, engineers, medical researchers, technology innovators, business entrepreneurs, artists, performers, writers and illustrators, designers, inventors, educators and parents. Those with the ability to "think outside of the box" will lead the future and make special things happen. In the past, creativity was not something most teachers were interested in. Students were to sit quietly in their seats, receiving information from the teacher or from a book without question or complaint. In the present, however, teachers have learned better. By letting students be creative in the classroom, teachers can improve not only their learning, but also help them gain cognitive skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. Students of all ages are entitled to a safe school learning environment. If students don't feel safe, they are not able to stay focused during classroom lessons and activities. They will have more difficulty learning the skills they need for their educational future. When violence becomes present in schools, it affects all students in one way or another. Even if your child doesn't experience violence first hand, there is a chance he or she will become witness to some type of violence toward another student. School safety is becoming a main point of interest for local to federal government officials. Members of the school boards should be meeting with teachers and parents to listen to their concerns and offer solutions.

Creativity

Motivation

Letting students be creative in the way they show comprehension of learning materials improves their motivation to learn. A student who feels he has to conform to the standards of, for example, a five-paragraph essay to express his thoughts on a topic is more likely to feel that he's simply being forced to do something he would rather not. A student who has a

variety of options to show his understanding, and options that let him express it in his own way, is much more likely to put in an actual effort.

Comprehension

Encouraging creativity also improves students' overall level of comprehension of the subject material. Part of this is due to their increased motivation from having more freedom to express them. Another factor is that creativity requires independence, allowing students to examine topics from their perspective. For example, a student who likes art but struggles with trigonometry may be able to improve her comprehension by making cubist-style paintings and analyzing the relations of the shapes in it from a mathematical perspective.

Critical Thinking

Because students have more freedom about how they need to approach a topic when they're being creative, creativity encourages critical thinking. In a creative project, there's often no right answer, but only the student's interpretation. For example, if a student wrote a short play about Theodore Roosevelt, he would have to think critically about the different historical perspectives to characterize him properly, whether as a bullying Imperialist or a trust-busting environmentalist, or a mixture of both.

Innovation

Naturally, being creative in the classroom encourages students to be creative in their lives, in the present and the future. Students who've learned through creativity are less likely to be set in their ways of looking at the world. They can see different solutions to problems that others who are only see things from conventional perspectives may overlook. Furthermore, in economies that are more reliant on technology and information, the ability to be innovative is an important skill that will help students succeed in their adult lives.

Safety

Importance

School safety is important because in order for any learning to take place, a child has to feel that he or she is in a safe environment. If they are focused on other fearful issues, they could care less what is being taught in the classroom. School safety is important for the protection of all students and school staff from any abuse or violence. As long as there continue to be stories of school violence and shootings in the news, there will continue to be a need for more improvements on school safety. School staff and parents need to take all precautions. There are different types of school abuse or violence. Some examples are assaults, bullying, fights, theft, sexual attacks, or use of a weapon.

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is a big part of the picture. Parents should remind their children that schools are safe places and they are part of the solution. If they see any inappropriate behavior going on, they need to let an adult know. Parents and teachers also need to explain that violence is never the answer to problems they may be faced with. Some parents may think

they don't know how to get involved, while others say they simply don't have the time. It's a lot easier than you think to be involved in your child's life. Start by talking to them and find out what's going on in their lives. They need to feel like they can come to you with any concerns they have at school and feel safe.

References

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