

# ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY



**Begin lessons with a warm-up period designed to heighten students' anticipation, expectations, and motivation; create a desire to know; arouse curiosity; and stimulate the imagination.**



One of the ways gifted children demonstrate creativity is by generating numerous, often original, ideas. But we only see this ability in the classroom when students are given opportunities to connect thoughts, words, images, and experiences in novel ways. Well-designed warm-up activities allow students to make connections between the learning (the curriculum we are charged with teaching them), concepts from other disciplines, and areas of interest and meaning in their own lives. While teachers may be reluctant to allocate time to engaging warm-up activities when they have so much content to cover, the time is well spent because new ideas are most often generated after a period of incubation.



To inspire creativity in STEM subjects, consider designating a space in your classroom as the "wonder zone." Post thought-provoking, open-ended questions or intriguing art in the area to stimulate curiosity and confront ambiguities. In addition to preparing students for higher quality, more creative responses to the lessons, warm-up activities that spark children's interest, curiosity, and a desire to know more allow teachers to spot exceptional abilities that might have gone unrecognized in a less stimulating classroom, but now can be cultivated and nurtured.



- Creativity in the Classroom: Schools of Curious Delight, 5th Edition. Author: Alane Starko (2013)
- Fostering Creativity in Gifted Children (Practical Strategies in Gifted Education). Author: Bonnie Cramond (2005)
- The Incubation Model: Getting Beyond the Aha! Authors: E. Paul Torrance & Tammy Safter, (1990).

---

# PRACTICES.

AT SCHOOL

