

Celebrating Creative Expression

Relevant Satellite Accreditation Standards

IV. Supporting Children's Development

- I. Art and other self-expression activities are open-ended and child-directed.
3. The provider displays or photographs artwork created by each child, and saves some for parents.



Kathy's Kids Home Child Care



Sarah's Littles Adventures in Playschool



Tricia's Harmony House

The Basics

Creativity is a form of outward self-expression in which one combines imagination and preexisting knowledge to construct something new. Creative expression is the foundation of human innovation and comes in many forms – dance, music, visual art, storytelling, building, and drama.

Why celebrate children's creativity? Young children learn essential skills (for example: fine-motor, planning, and expressive language) and process experiences through creative expression. When children see their work honored, it prompts them to recall, reflect, and expand on their ideas (Epstein, 2014). Educators encourage children to create more by recognizing and valuing forms of self-expression in various ways.

How do I honor children's creative work? Educators show admiration for creative expression through:

- ❖ genuine curiosity about children's vision, method, and process. Examples include:

“

Tell me about your art.

Could you teach me your dance?

How did you build this?

”

- ❖ respectful support for curating children's creative expression. Examples include:

“

Can I write your name on your art?

Should we turn your story into a book?

Would you like to display your work? Where?

How can I help you?

”

- ❖ environmental display and sharing children’s creative process. Examples include:
 - Capture creative expression through photo, video, audio, and quotation.
 - Share work with family members frequently.
 - Offer multiple ways to display work, such as through photos, portfolios, and albums and with shelves, wall, and window space.
 - Display work at eye-level, behind contact paper, or in plastic sheet protectors.

I want to learn more!

- [Effective display of children’s artwork](#) (Resource)
- [Art – an opportunity to develop children’s skills](#) (Resource)
- [The importance of creative arts in early childhood classrooms](#) (Article)
- [The value of documenting process art](#) (Article)
- [Talking to Children About Their Art](#) (Article)

Books available through Satellite’s lending library:

(for Satellite participating programs only)

- *Expressing Creativity in Preschool* (Teaching Young Children, 2015)
- *Children as Illustrators: Making Meaning Through Art and Language* (Thompson, 2005)
- *Preschool Art: It’s the Process, Not the Product* (Kohl, 1994)



Growing Hands Family Child Care



Waddle In Family Child Care



My Little World