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# DEVELOPING CREATIVITY IN CHILDREN THROUGH DRAWING AND HANDICRAFTS

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**Abstract**

This article analyzes effective methods for developing creativity in preschool children, including drawing and handicraft activities. The article highlights the role of drawing and handicrafts in developing children's imagination, creative thinking ability, aesthetic taste, hand motor skills, and problem-solving abilities. It also emphasizes the importance of the teacher's pedagogical approach, encouraging children to express themselves freely, and motivating them to engage in creative activities. The article has practical significance for preschool educators, parents, and researchers.

**Keywords**

Creativity, preschool education, drawing, handicrafts, children's creative development, imagination, motor skills, pedagogical approach.

## Introduction

The preschool education period is one of the most important stages in the formation of a child as an individual. During this period, a child's thinking, imagination, interests, and creative abilities begin to develop. Developing creativity in children creates a foundation for their future personal and academic success.Creativity is the ability to generate new ideas, solve problems with innovative solutions, and express one's thoughts freely. Various methods are used to develop creativity in preschool-aged children, among which drawing and handicraft activities are considered the most effective. These activities help develop children's imagination, fantasy, hand–eye coordination, and aesthetic sense.

## Developing Creativity Through Drawing

Drawing is one of the most effective ways to develop children's imagination, independent thinking, and creative abilities. It is considered the most natural and free form of creative activity for children. This process is not only an interesting activity but also a means for children to express their inner world. Especially for preschool-aged children, drawing is a very important activity for developing creativity. During the drawing process, a child transfers the world of their imagination onto paper, chooses colors, and creates shapes.

## Benefits of Drawing for Children

Drawing helps develop a child's imagination and fantasy. With the help of pencils, paints, and pastels, children can reveal their inner world. They create new images and reflect different events through their own creative interpretations. By choosing colors, shapes, and compositions, children also develop their aesthetic perception.

Drawing helps children express their emotions and reduce stress. In their drawings, children combine shapes and colors, and as a result, they learn to solve problems in new and creative ways. During group activities, children share their work with one another, exchange ideas, and learn to cooperate. Through the process of drawing, children learn to think freely. Their ability to make independent decisions also develops.

## Practical Examples

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A child is given the task of drawing on a free topic. Through drawing, the child expresses their feelings, favorite animals, or fairy-tale characters. By creating abstract drawings with colored paints, children learn to combine colors and shapes.

Handicraft activities (working with plasticine, paper, natural materials, and fabric) are another effective way to develop creativity in children. Such activities are beneficial in the following ways:

- Working with hands and fingers strengthens a child's motor skills, which are important for writing and other practical skills later on.
- Creating new objects from simple materials helps develop a child's creative thinking.
- The child completes the work independently, chooses materials, and achieves a result.
- In group activities, children exchange ideas with one another and learn to work together.

Creating complex figures from simple shapes helps develop children's problem-solving skills and their ability to concentrate. By creating new objects from leaves, shells, stones, and other materials, children connect with nature and expand their creative abilities.

The Role of the Educator and Pedagogical Approaches**.** In drawing and handicraft activities, the educator's pedagogical approach plays an important role in developing children's creativity. In order for children to express their imagination freely, they should not be afraid of making mistakes. The educator provides guidance and encourages the child's creative exploration.

- Positively evaluating every creative work helps increase a child's self-confidence.
- Organizing activities that match each child's interests and abilities.
- Enhancing creativity through the **STEAM approach**, colorful paints, natural materials, and interactive activities.

**Practical Recommendations**

An educator can encourage children to work independently by asking questions such as, *"How would you do this?"* and motivating them to find their own solutions. During activities, children's creative abilities can be expanded by using different materials, combining colors and shapes, and trying new techniques.

In the process of developing creativity in children, the educator can observe the following criteria:

- Does the child generate new ideas?
- Does the child attempt to solve problems independently?
- During drawing or handicraft activities, does the child show imagination in creating colors and shapes?
- Does the child exchange ideas with others during group activities?

**Conclusion**

Drawing and handicraft activities are among the most effective methods for developing creativity in preschool-aged children. They help develop children's imagination, creative thinking, aesthetic taste, fine motor skills, and problem-solving abilities. The educator's pedagogical approach, creating a supportive environment, and encouragement make children's creative activities even more effective. Therefore, giving special attention to drawing and handicraft activities in preschool education contributes to nurturing future individuals who are creative and capable of independent thinking.

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