

Lifelong Kindergarten Parent University Edition #1

“We’re running education systems where mistakes are the worst thing you can make. We’re educating people out of their creative capacities”, Ken Robinson.

Traditional school experiences that focus solely on certain academic skills, such as knowing the ‘right’ answer and rote learning swathes of information, do not prepare students for an evolving society and the possibility thinking required, ([De Bono](#)) instead schools need to broaden their definition of success to include a creative innovative spirit in people willing to find and solve their own problems ([Lifelong Kindergarten](#), 2017).

The ‘**Creative Learning Spiral**’ shown below, is an attempt to capture what happens naturally when young children play. The MIT Media Lab, where Mitchel Resnick works to develop educational technologies such as Scratch and LEGO Mindstorms, is full of researchers and academics who engage in this creative process as part of their daily work.



Paulo Freire ([Pedagogy of the Oppressed](#), 2014) reminds us that the purpose of education is to make us fully human and, since 1970, his methodology has empowered impoverished and illiterate people throughout the world. While his writing intended to foment revolution, it has been part of the educational revolution as educators seek to transform education.

Our challenge then, is how to create students who are fluent readers and writers and, in the rapidly changing landscape of our world, fluent thinkers who can create, express and communicate their ideas for the benefit of all. As teachers and parents, can we ‘create a fertile environment in which creativity will take root, grow and flourish.’ We need better technologies, better activities and better strategies for engaging our children in playful approaches to learning.

As part of LLV's Year of the Book, let's share some of our professional reading favourites.

Lifelong Kindergarten

Cultivating Creativity through Projects, Passion, Peers, and Play

By Mitchel Resnick

Foreword by Ken Robinson

The following tips are taken from his book.

For Learners

1. Start simple. Try it, extend it, improve it.
2. Work on things you like. WB Yeats: Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire.
3. If you have no clue, fiddle. Let curiosity be your guide. Tinker; use familiar in the unfamiliar, be silly & whimsical.
4. Don't be afraid to experiment. Try new things, ignore conventional wisdom.
5. Find a friend to work with & share ideas.
6. It's OK to copy (to give you an idea). Copy, credit, add. Feel free to build and let others build on your work.
7. Keep your ideas in a sketchbook. Documentation leads to sharing, which leads to feedback and to grow on your old self.
8. Build, take apart & rebuild. Iterate, iterate, iterate.
9. Lots of things can go wrong; STICK WITH IT. When you get stuck, stick with it. Tinker. Research. Find a partner. Take a break.
10. Create your own learning tips. Pay attention to your own learning.

For teachers & parents

Create a fertile environment in which creativity will take root, grow and flourish.

1. IMAGINE : Show examples to spark it.
2. IMAGINE : Encourage messing around.
3. CREATE : Provide a wide range of materials. Traditional and new technologies. Greater diversity leads to greater opportunity.
4. CREATE : Embrace all types of making. Multiple types of making leads to a deeper understanding of the creative design process.
5. PLAY : Emphasize process, not product. Process and strategies are sources of inspiration.
6. PLAY: Extend time.
7. SHARE: Play the role of matchmaker.
8. SHARE: Get involved as a collaborator. Find the 'sweet spot'.
9. REFLECT: Ask authentic questions
10. REFLECT: Share your own reflections.

“Thinking is hard work for everyone.”