

Select Readings, Second Edition
Upper-Intermediate, Chapter 5 Test

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Raising Creative Kids

They say that parenting is the most important ‘job’ in the world. Undoubtedly, it is also one of the most difficult. In a world where imagination and a creative outlook are becoming more and more important to a person’s success, preparing children for life as a successful member of today’s society can be an extremely challenging task.

If you or someone you know is struggling to find the best way to raise well balanced and creative kids, the most important thing you can do is encourage children’s interests and help them find things they are good at. Here are a few tips that might help along the way.

First, limit TV and videogame time. Encourage your kids to play using their imagination to create their own games or role plays. Don’t limit playtime. Free playtime is important for young children to develop and discover their own creativity.

Get involved in playtime, but let your child take the lead. By following their lead, children can gain confidence in their own ideas. They may not be doing something the most efficient way, but that is not the point. Just have fun and let them figure it out. Don’t tell them they are doing something wrong. There is no status quo in playtime.

Expose your children to the arts early on. Encourage them if they have an interest in taking music, dance, or art lessons. Take them to local children's theater productions, museums, and art galleries, as well as musicals, concerts, and ballets when they are ready.

Try to provide inspiration in your home. Fill your house with music and art of all kinds. Keep a box full of old clothes, wigs, and fabrics. Encourage your kids to play dress up. It really is a good way to get the imagination going, and it lets kids be creative in putting together interesting costumes and making up characters to go along.

Make sure kids have a supply of basic art supplies on hand. The key here is ‘basic.’ Children do not need expensive, high-tech tools to become creative—quite the opposite. Simply buy the basics and a couple of books with art and craft ideas made from recycled items found around the house.

Listen to your children. Let them know you like their ideas. Everybody can be creative, and many children have hidden talents. Let your child try different things until they find what they are good at. Every child is good at something; the key to good parenting is finding what your child is good at and supporting them.

There are so many different forms and outlets for creativity. If you want to raise creative children, all you need to do is encourage them. Sometimes that means doing a little research and trying a few things to help them find what they like. And sometimes it means leaving them alone to play.

1. The main point of the article is _____.
 - A. how to get your child into college
 - B. how to help your child become a musician
 - C. how to help your child become successful in business
 - D. how to help your child find what he/she is good at

2. True or false? The article says TV and videogames should not be allowed.
 - A. True
 - B. False

3. In the first line, 'job' is in quotation marks because _____.
 - A. parenting is hard work.
 - B. parenting is work but it's not paid.
 - C. parenting isn't that difficult.
 - D. parenting is a career.

4. In paragraph 4, 'status quo' probably does not mean _____.
 - A. a flexible way of doing things
 - B. a set way of doing things
 - C. keeping things the same
 - D. rules for right and wrong

5. Which of the following is not given as an example of how parents can provide inspiration?
 - A. Playing different kinds of music
 - B. Displaying different kinds of paintings
 - C. Having children learn to draw in the styles of particular artists
 - D. Collecting a box of old clothes for children to use for dressing up

6. An example of 'basic' art supplies is not _____.
 - A. a set of professional oil paints
 - B. a pencil and paper
 - C. a lump of clay
 - D. scissors and glue

7. When parents are participating in playtime, they should _____.
 - A. worry about how efficiently their children are playing
 - B. direct what is done and how it's done
 - C. tell their child when they've made a mistake
 - D. let their child be the leader

8. Which of the following is not a reason to "listen to your child"?
 - A. To find out which areas of art they like the most
 - B. To help them discover their hidden talents
 - C. To show that you're supporting them
 - D. To show them what they're good at before they fail at something

9. Which of the following would the author say is true?
 - A. Leave your children alone.
 - B. Provide your children with some materials and let them experiment.
 - C. Give your children careful guidelines for experimenting with art supplies.
 - D. All children should receive instruction in music and art at a young age.

10. In paragraph 6, what will children make up characters *to go along with*?
 - A. the paintings they did
 - B. the costumes they put together
 - C. the makeup they put on
 - D. the other kids playing