

Encouraging creative and innovative thinking

- last assignment

1. Evaluate how Skills Builder website can be useful for teachers concerning encouraging and innovative thinking in schools

For teachers, this tool can be very useful when it comes to defining different aspects of creativity. Creativity is such a broad and abstract term, and I could imagine how it could be difficult for teachers to specify the components of creativity. The Skills Builder website provides teachers with a thorough and in-depth explanations of these components and helps teachers understand how to teach creativity and notice creativity in students. It underlines that creativity is not talent-based but develops gradually, and that creativity is a learning process rather than a fixed ability.

What I especially find useful is the information about assessment, including the observation cues and evidence section. This section provides the teacher with specific ideas about how they can notice this specific component of creativity in the student, and how it can manifest as evidence which I consider being very concrete and useful for teaching practice. The website can also be used as a tool for assessing students' creative development by identifying what stage of creativity the student has reached. This can make the teacher conscious about what the student's strengths are, and what the student needs to improve on. Then the teacher can provide the student with new information or tasks that can make the student more confident with these skills.

From a teaching perspective, this tool would encourage me to initiate more long-term projects in the class where there's enough time for the student to move through and explore the different stages. It also inspires me to do more group projects where students can share ideas, build on each other's thinking and revise their work based on feedback. This framework also supports differentiated teaching, since tasks can be adapted to match the student's current creative stage.

2. Describe where you are as a creative person now and where you would like to be

Reflecting on myself as a creative person, I know that one of my strengths is imagination. I have a vivid imagination; however, I do not always act on this imagination or share it. I would definitely like to become better at doing this. Taking a point of departure in the different Skills Builder steps, I have always been best at step 14: Using curiosity, step 10: Reflecting critically, step 11: Seeking perspectives and step 15: Facilitating creativity. As a person, I am very curious, and I really like to seek out other

perspectives and include people. I also find it very important to reflect critically which is an approach that has been strongly emphasized during my studies at my home university. Furthermore, I really enjoy facilitating processes, and I know that it is one of my strengths. This may also have to do with the fact that I like to collaborate with others, seek out new perspectives and put together different ideas.

During this course, I feel like I have improved on sharing my imagination and generating ideas among other things. Normally, I get a bit self-conscious when I share my imagination, and sometimes I am afraid that people will judge me. This course really created an environment in which I felt comfortable expressing my views openly.

However, I still really want to develop this skill, and I want to be better at caring less about what people think, because I know that is what is holding me back when it comes to sharing my imagination. In order to develop this skill, I think it is important for me to put aside my perfectionism and acknowledge that no idea is perfect, and sometimes many unpolished ideas are better than none.

This would also come in handy in my future profession. I want to work in a Danish NGO promoting children's rights and well-being called "Børns Vilkår" or NGOs similar to this. Here, the work tasks are very project-oriented, and therefore it would be good for me to be better at confidently sharing my imagination and generating ideas.

In a broader perspective, I would say that creativity plays an essential role in 21st-century teaching, as schools are increasingly expected to prepare students for a rapidly changing world. In the classroom, creativity supports engagement, motivation, and deeper learning by allowing students to explore ideas, and express themselves in different ways. Therefore, I do believe that creativity must play an essential role in teaching practice in the 21st-century.