



# Family Matters



A Christ-center resource for families and teachers

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## Helping Your Child to “C”

*Discovering ways to impart critical skills and values in your child’s life and family setting.*

### Creativity

When you hear the word creative, do you think of yourself?

Most of us do not. We think of other people like painters, sculptors, writers, songwriter-musicians — those who practice creativity in the arts. In this media age, we may even think of those who can harness technology as being equally creative.

Creativity. We know it when we see it in others, but we don’t always look for it in ourselves. Creativity is about discovery. Creativity is work, and everyone can be creative if they are willing to take the journey of discovery.

Most parents, while not seeing creativity within themselves, desire to see it flourish in their children. How does that happen? How can we guide our children on the journey of creativity? Here are a few thoughts:

- **Give them time.** While our families keep tight schedules, there must be time for children to enjoy play and free expression. It’s hard to do that if they are strapped in a car seat most of the day. Unstructured time frees children to think, play and discover.
- **Give them a place.** A corner of the family room. A space in the basement. A place to build a fort. A space to put up a tent with old blankets. An open area of dirt. Give them a place to play, to make a mess in. Stand back and watch the fun unfold!
- **Give them simple resources.** Blocks. Tinkertoys. Blank pieces of paper with crayons/markers/colored pencils nearby. Simple dolls with few accessories. Lincoln Logs. Legos. A rock and stick. A sandbox with only a plastic bucket and a shovel (not a lot of other fancy toys).
- **Read to them — and let them read to you.** Reading stirs the imagination. The images we create in our



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minds can be more vivid than what is on a screen or even in a picture book. Talk about what they read and how they visualize it.

- **Avoid being practical.** Don’t look for the “right answer.” There is a reason kids play with empty boxes on Christmas Day; there are no instructions on an empty box, and it can be anything they want it to be. Not everything a child does needs a practical purpose or output. It’s plenty practical if they are simply engaged and thinking and acting.
- **Be an involved observer.** Pay attention to where they are and what they are doing. Ask open-ended questions about what is going on. Listen and respond to what they are telling you and what they are thinking.

When it comes to developing creativity within our children, a step back is perhaps the best approach. A step back from parents allows them sufficient room and time to step forward to think and act on their own.

## FAMILY LINKS: Activities for families to reinforce Bible story truths in the home.

*Gather the family together and follow the outline below. Make sure you have a Bible.*

Open with a word of prayer by the oldest member of the family.

**Into the Word:** Read the following sections of Scripture, answering the questions.

### 1 Samuel 17:4-7

What kind of person is described here? (A giant!)  
Would you want to do battle against him? (Probably not!)

### 1 Samuel 17:8-11

What challenge does Goliath give?  
(Send your best man to fight.)  
What does the winner get?  
(To rule over the people who lose.)

### 1 Samuel 17:32-33

Who steps forward to fight the giant?  
(The shepherd boy, David.)  
What does King Saul tell David?  
(You aren't able to fight him. You are too young, and he is a great warrior.)

### 1 Samuel 17:38-40

How does King Saul try to help David prepare for battle?

(By giving him his special armor.)  
What does David decide to do?  
(Not wear it because it was too heavy.)

### 1 Samuel 17:41-47

What does Goliath think of David as the one coming forward to fight him?  
(He makes fun of David.)  
What does David say in response to Goliath?  
(The Lord will hand you over to me this day, and I'll strike you down!)

### 1 Samuel 17:48-51

How does the battle unfold?  
(David knocks Goliath down with his slingshot.)  
How does it end?  
(David wins the battle.)

**Summary Thought:** (Read by a parent.) David defeated Goliath that day because God was with him. David was smart and used his skills and experience with a slingshot to defeat the bigger and stronger Goliath. We can overcome challenges in life as well, as we think creatively, use our skills and trust that God is with us.

**Closing Prayer:** (Ask a child to lead a closing prayer.)

## TIPS FOR PARENTS: Here are some ideas on enhancing creativity in your life based on the story of David defeating Goliath.

1. Don't be intimidated by a strong opponent.
2. Know your history and personal skill set.
3. Trust God, be courageous and know that He will not abandon you in a time of need.
4. Use resources with which you are familiar.
5. Have a plan in mind.
6. Face things head on and act quickly.
7. Stay within your comfort zone. Play to your strengths.
8. Finish the job. Stay strong to the end.
9. **Remember Jesus, who defeated death and the devil.**

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