

The Creative Experience

The creative experience immediately follows the story experience. Its purpose is to invite the children into a exploration of what the story and lesson meant to them personally. It is helpful to offer more than one creative experience choice per lesson.

A creative experience:

- Is open ended
- Allows the children individual expression
- Is directly connected to the lesson intention
- Takes into consideration the different learning styles of children
- Is age appropriate

Types of creative experiences

- Quiet and meditative
- Loud and active
- Art based
- Games/active
- Science based

Other points

- Some creative experiences are blended into the storytelling portion of the lesson through drama
- Some creative experiences are part of the active learning portion of the lesson.
- Creative experiences can be set up in stations around the room so the children can choose the activity they most resonate with.

Active Learning

“It is quite simply learning by doing. It is an adventure; it is fun and interactive; it involves everyone even the observers; it is student based with the students making their own discoveries; it is process-oriented and the experience is evaluated through discussion. It is also relational because the students must interact with one another.” From: Do IT! By Thom and Joani Schultz

The Benefits

- Learning becomes an adventure with surprises.
- Learning becomes fun and captivating.
- Everyone gets involved in the action.
- Learning depends on students making discoveries.
- Process of learning is as important as end result.
- A discussion debriefing the experience helps students apply the learning.
- Learners interact with each other learning relational skills.

In order to help the students to get the most from their experience, you must help them interpret their experience. Active learning takes on power when we reflect on the experience.

During debriefing we ask:

- What just happened here?
- How can we learn from it?
- How will we be different because of it?