

Table 15 Ten Characteristics of Highly Creative People From *Wired to Create*¹

CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES IN EDUCATION
Imaginative Play	Youthful play and playfulness that begins in childhood and never stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated time for free play • Hands-on learning • Creative writing • Experiments • Recess
Passion	Sparks that inspire, making you feel like you've discovered who you are, what you like, and what you want to do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent studies • Freedom Fridays • Free choice activities • Community partnerships • Passion projects • Career exploration
Daydreaming	Mind wandering that incubates ideas and supports creative expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free writing • Drawing • Nature walks • Free time • Brain games
Solitude	Time alone for solitary reflection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet time • Nature walks • Silent reading • Free writing • Online research • Dedicated "solitude space"
Intuition	Responding to an inner sense of what to do, based on "gut" feelings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative problem-solving • Creative writing • Emotional intelligence exercises • Culture-builders
Openness to Experience	Willingness to try new things in your inner and outer worlds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field trips • Experiments • Group assignments • Project-based learning • Art classes • Job shadowing and internships
Mindfulness	Tuning in and paying attention to yourself and the world around you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindfulness • Breathing exercises • Brain breaks

(Continued)

Retrieved from the companion website for *How We Thrive: Caring for Kids and Ourselves in a Changing World* by Stephanie Malia Krauss. Illustrated by Manuel S. Herrera. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin, www.corwin.com. Copyright © 2026 by Corwin Press, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction authorized for educational use by educators, local school sites, and/or noncommercial or nonprofit entities that have purchased the book.

(Continued)

CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES IN EDUCATION
Sensitivity	Being aware of and affected by your surroundings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building social skills• Culture-builders• Reading and analysis• Improv
Turning Adversity Into Advantage	Turning to creativity to make sense of struggles and suffering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teaching coping skills• Teaching stress management• Offering crisis support
Thinking Differently	Risking rejection to be true to yourself and be a nonconformist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encouraging divergent viewpoints• Encouraging novel thinking• Teaching perspective-taking• Debate• Point of view writing assignments• Watching movies or reading books by or about people with different life experiences

¹Kaufman, S. B., & Gregoire, C. (2015). *Wired to create: Unraveling the mysteries of the creative mind*. Penguin Books.

Retrieved from the companion website for *How We Thrive: Caring for Kids and Ourselves in a Changing World* by Stephanie Malia Krauss. Illustrated by Manuel S. Herrera. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin, www.corwin.com. Copyright © 2026 by Corwin Press, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction authorized for educational use by educators, local school sites, and/or noncommercial or nonprofit entities that have purchased the book.