

Unsolicited Evaluation Is the Enemy of Creativity

Written by Peter Gray for Psychology Today.

Longitudinal research has shown that children raised by parents who are relatively non-directive and non-judgmental exhibit more creativity later on than do those raised by relatively directive, judgmental parents. In a classic study, conducted in the 1970s and '80s, David Harrington, Jeanne Block, and Jack Block assessed the child-rearing beliefs and practices of the parents of 106 preschool children (3.5 to 4.5 years old), and then, when the children were in 6th grade and again in 9th grade, asked the children's school teachers to rate them on a number of characteristics pertaining to creativity.

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