

# The Two Sides of Nurturing Innovation in the Classroom

## ENCOURAGE GROUP COLLABORATION

Innovation can thrive when students work together to build on each other's ideas and brainstorm new solutions.

*but also . . .*

## ALLOW TIME FOR INDIVIDUAL FOCUS

Sometimes, students need time alone to concentrate in order to refine and elaborate on an innovative idea.

## VALUE STUDENTS' ORIGINAL IDEAS

Giving students opportunities to share their unique ideas validates their thinking and encourages them to continue creating.

*but also . . .*

## SHARE EXPERTS' CREATIVE THINKING

Learning about the creative work of others can lead students in directions they otherwise may not have explored.

## MOTIVATE THROUGH RECOGNITION

By celebrating their successful solutions and engaging creations, we can inspire students to experiment further.

*but also . . .*

## CELEBRATE FAILURES AND MISTAKES

Acknowledging the beneficial learning that happens when ideas don't work out encourages students to keep trying.

## MAKE IT REAL

If students are challenged to address the real problems they see in everyday life, they will be invested in finding innovative solutions.

*but also . . .*

## LET IMAGINATION SOAR

Children have amazing imaginations with few limitations and giving them space to dream can lead to amazing ideas and inventions.

## EMBRACE NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Innovation is often linked closely with technology and certainly students can benefit from using technological tools to explore their innovative ideas.

*but also . . .*

## CONNECT WITH NATURE

Time spent outdoors and away from screens is needed to refresh students' sense of well-being and encourage imaginative rather than structured play.

## PERSONALIZE LEARNING

Customizing learning for each student's strengths, needs, skills, and interests establishes a learning environment that supports their best thinking.

*but also . . .*

## TRY OUT VARIOUS APPROACHES

Opportunities to experiment outside their comfort zone may prompt students to explore new avenues of thought that can lead to innovation.