

Offspring

cracking the kid code

Whooping cough alert, Smarter trick or treating, The cavity crisis, Cute shoes for every stage, Toddler mani-pedis, Kiddie cursing cures



Brain Expander
The FarFaria app (\$4 per month; itunes.com) is the new Netflix of kid lit.

The Right Stuff

Cranking up the creativity at home now = success later.

BY THERESE TULLY

Creativity, innovation, way-outside-the-box thinking: These are the buzzwords of the future, the goals for the next-generation workforce (our tots). Drilling, memorizing, standardized-test-taking: These are the buzzwords of today's classroom. It doesn't matter if you're left brain (logical, factual, mathematically inclined) or right brain (visual, creative, imaginative)—the disconnect is obvious. Our world is becoming more

visually driven, thanks to the increasing prevalence of technology, notes Bette Fetter, author of *Being Visual: Raising a Generation of Innovative Thinkers* and founder of the Young Rembrandts art-enrichment program, based in Elgin, IL. Fetter and many educators believe that our left-brain, test-focused education system won't help our kids down the road. The antidote: Start now to exercise your preschooler's creative muscles.

Be a "why" guy
Your kid asks you endless questions; turn the tables and ask him "Why?" when he shares an observation.

Picture this
On your next outing, use your camera phone to snap scenes, people, and action, then create a book with the images.

Be touchy-feely
Play with tactile crafts materials, dig in the dirt, take a hike and collect as many different objects as you can find.

Write on
Sure, keyboards and touch pads are cool, but the physical act of writing helps visual learners see and remember.

Build and destroy
It's just as important to take things apart—to see how parts fit together so the whole will work—as it is to build them.