

gaining Confidence to Teach

By Debbie Strayer

— — — — — Making Room for the Great Gift of Creativity

The greatest act of creativity is described for us in Genesis. It is the moment when God began all that we know. To ponder this event even briefly is to be aware of the awesome nature of God and the gift he has given mankind.

According to God, we are made in His image, after His likeness. We are at the top of His created order, equipped with an understanding mind and an expressive soul. We were made to have fellowship with God and with one another. You can't observe the events of Creation without acknowledging the power of God to create. He shares this trait with mankind in the form of creativity.

Creativity has been given to us as a gift, a reflection of God's very nature. So how can we, as Christian homeschoolers, nurture this gift? The most important way, I think, is to make room for it. Make room in your schedule for reflecting, discussing, pondering, or maybe just being amazed by some new thought or understanding. Make room in your schedule for reflecting, discussing, pondering, or maybe just being amazed by some new thought or understanding. Make room in your schedule for trying new things with your children, for cultivating a sense of appreciation or enjoyment for the arts. Encourage your children to express their thoughts in a variety of ways, such as through drama, art, music, or writing. Make these opportunities available, not as another subject to check off a list, but as an opportunity for the creativity within your child to find avenues of expression.

Ask the Lord to show you the gifts of creating He has placed in your child. Ask Him to show you ways to nurture those gifts and make room for them in your homeschooling. They are not secondary, or just for when you have extra time. The creativity God has placed within our children is nothing less than essential for the next generation. Prepare your child to be used by God in ways that may be completely new and different. Your child's ability to creativity solve a problem may someday change the world. It is my hope that we will make room for the creativity that God has placed within, and that part of His image will be reflected in all of us as we homeschool.

**And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
Genesis 1:27**

