Encouraging children to try out new things and ideas is a crucial factor in their intellectual, physical and emotional growth. Creativity is a way of thinking and expressing oneself. It is about discovering and inventing new things, which motivates us to be imaginative and inventive.

**GET CREATIVE**
Encourage your child to paint with different objects from nature such as sticks, leaves, rocks, fruits, or vegetables. Display your works of art for all to see!  

**MAKE MUSIC**
Make a drum out of a plastic container and a wooden spoon, or put rice into a well-sealed plastic bottle to make a shaker. Put on some music and bang or shake fast or slow to match the music.

**BUILDING**
Provide materials such as a cardboard box and leave it up to your child to decide what it will become. Is it a house, a spaceship, maybe even a cave? Allow your child’s imagination to run wild.

**PLAY DRESS UP**
Play dress up with your child. Use costumes and old clothes. Can you act our their favorite story with props you find around the house?
The Department of Education and the Office of Child Development and Early Learning use a Standards Aligned System. The Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood are designed to support learning. The key areas explored in these activities are Creative Thinking and Expression.

**9.1.V PRODUCTION AND PERFORMANCE—Visual Arts**

**Big Idea:** Visual arts allow expression of interest, abilities and knowledge.

- **9.1.V PK.B** Combine a variety of materials to create a work of art.
- **9.1.V PK.E** Use imagination and creativity to express self through visual arts.

**9.1 M PRODUCTION AND PERFORMANCE—Music and Movement**

**Big Idea:** Music can be used to express and initiate aesthetic and physical responses.

- **9.1 M PK.E** Use imagination and creativity to express self through music and dance.

**9.1 D PRODUCTION AND PERFORMANCE—Dramatic and Performance Play**

**Big Idea:** Dramatic and performance play is a way to act out reality and fantasy.

- **9.1 D PK.B** Recreate a dramatic play experience for an audience.