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hello / EDITOR'S NOTE



artful thinking

ABOVE //
Heather Vance Devers
in her home with her
daughter, Betty, and
son, Jude.

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GROWING UP, I THOUGHT I WASN'T CREATIVE. I struggled in art class, trying to measure up to my peers with their beautiful clay pots or intricate drawings. In the seventh grade, I remember vividly having to choose a photograph to draw—I chose a picture of my mom (*awwww*)—and after hours and hours of trying to capture her likeness, she ended up with lopsided eyes. (Sorry, Mom.)

But around that time, I fell in love with fashion. I would pore over catalogs that arrived in the mail and mark them up, attempting to build perfect outfits. I also remember my mom scolding me and telling me that I was wasting my time, that those hours would be better spent on school (something I wasn't excelling at), and that my fixation on fashion would never lead to anything. Well, with 15 years of professional fashion styling under my belt, I am happy to say she was wrong. (And who do you think she goes to for fashion advice?)

Our feature story, "Art on the Brain" on page 22, shows us that while our kids definitely need science and math, it's becoming increasingly apparent that the arts are essential for nurturing creativity and collaboration, skills that kids will use throughout their lives.

As an adult I've learned that creativity comes in many forms, and just because you can't draw or sculpt doesn't mean that your brain is uncreative. Encourage your kids to express themselves creatively by starting a neighborhood band, trying out for the school play or creating their own Halloween costume. Get their wheels spinning outside of a textbook, and you never know where they might end up.

Albert Einstein, a lifelong violin player, is quoted as saying, "Art is the expression of the profoundest thoughts in the simplest way." And I tend to agree with him.

Cheers!

Heather

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