



## List of Activities/Websites to Enhance Creativity and Critical Thinking in Gifted Students



code.org - Computer programming and technology with coding that embeds STEM lessons

Discovery Education-[discoveryeducation.com](http://discoveryeducation.com)-Great resource with or without logging in, great resources for parents

Weather Stem-<https://stjohns.weatherstem.com/learn>-Another great resource that uses weather data from local weather stations. This site has lots of live interactive projects.

Office Mix-This is a Power Point Add in that you would need to download from this site: <https://mix.office.com/en-us/home>. This add in allows the creator to turn their Power Point into an interactive video. Students can use their Office 365 ID to log in and create.

Current Events- Current events are important into gifted programming. We want gifted children to be thinking about how they can use their talents to solve real-world problems.

Introduce Minecraft Edu- Incorporate learning with your child's passions and interests. They can even practice spelling and vocabulary application in Minecraft. MinecraftEdu has tons of engaging academic games.

<http://education.minecraft.net/>

Goal Setting- Use [FutureMe.org](http://FutureMe.org) and have your child write a letter to their future selves. Once he/she has written the letter, you can set the date for it to be sent to their inbox. What a great way for students to set goals and create natural check-in points.

TED talks-Provide exposure to different topics...Show them what kids like them are doing to change the world. Let them create their own TED talk on a topic that they are passionate about!

Practice Like Professionals-Allow your child to practice like the professionals. Looking to try fashion designing? Have your child actually sew, measure, use

patterns, and do the alterations. Visit the American Museum of Natural History's Ology interactive website.

Escape Rooms-<http://www.breakoutedu.com/digital/>. These are a great way to curate the knowledge you want your child to gain.

Create an Invention-Inventions are a great way to take risks and try different things. Student Inventions for a Better America challenges students to submit an invention that will make the world a better place...and there are winners every month!

Game Time-Try out The Mind Research Institute, which challenges students in grades K-12 to design their own mathematical game.

Solve local problems...be a World Changer-Kindness COUNTS! Give your child the opportunity to solve local problems and set the need for change in their own community. Read one of these books to inspire this mission: Wonder, Kindness Club, or The Summer I Changed the World in 65 Days.

Brainstorm-Develop fluency, originality, and abstract thinking with Google's Quick, Draw! It's a great tool for getting your child to think rapidly with creative thinking!

Blog-This is an authentic way for gifted children to share their reading in a way that we would as adults. Creating readers means treating them like readers-when we finish a book, we don't take comprehension quizzes. We talk about it, share it with friends or write about it. Have your child react to reading like real readers. Kidblog is a great tool for creating safe student blogs.

#### I-Pad Apps

- Buncee-Create digital stories, poetry, and lyrics.
- Puppet Pals-Digital story telling
- Tellagami-Create an animated videos.
- ChatterKid-Construct talking, animated pictures and videos.
- Docrer-Students can turn their ipads into recordable white boards.

<https://scratch.mit.edu/> - Basic game coding and Boolean logic introduction

<https://www.tinkercad.com/> - Free online AutoCad design studio for learners

<http://www.setgame.com/set/puzzle-Free> online site for playing the games of SET (Visual spatial puzzles, Quiddler word building, and Xactika)

<http://storybird.com/>

Free tool to create and publish your own writing, stories, picture books, and poetry with artwork

<http://whyville.net/smmk/nice#what>

Whyville is a virtual world where children play, explore, create and learn together. From solving math puzzles to protecting coral reefs, from programming robots to running virtual businesses, Whyville has a currency (clams!), an economy, a newspaper (The Whyville Times) and even a Senate. The richness of the virtual world fosters creativity, initiative, critical thinking and entrepreneurial spirit, all within a safe, monitored environment.