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### **"I Don't Know How to Use This, But I Don't Care!" Exploring Flexibility and Persistence During Play-Making in K-2 Setting**

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#### **Recommended Citation**

Fridrich, Monika and Plotkin, Ilana, "I Don't Know How to Use This, But I Don't Care!" Exploring Flexibility and Persistence During Play-Making in K-2 Setting" (2023). *Research Days Posters 2023*. 32.  
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# “I Don’t Know How to Use This, But I Don’t Care!”

Exploring Flexibility and Persistence During Play-Making in K-2 Setting

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&

Ilana Plotkin (Undergrad Scholar)

## BACKGROUND:

**Flexibility** is linked with divergent, creative, thinking and **persistence** with convergent, procedural, thinking. However, children’s **behaviors antecedent to creativity** and creative thinking include both flexibility and persistence.



## METHODS:

- ❖ Case Study Participants: 3 boys (Grade K, 1, & 2) out of 56 participants
- ❖ Setting: Rural, mid-sized elementary school.
- ❖ Data: 10, 20-minute video recordings of the boys interacting with materials and tools during ten play-making sessions
- ❖ Analysis: ACCT observational framework.

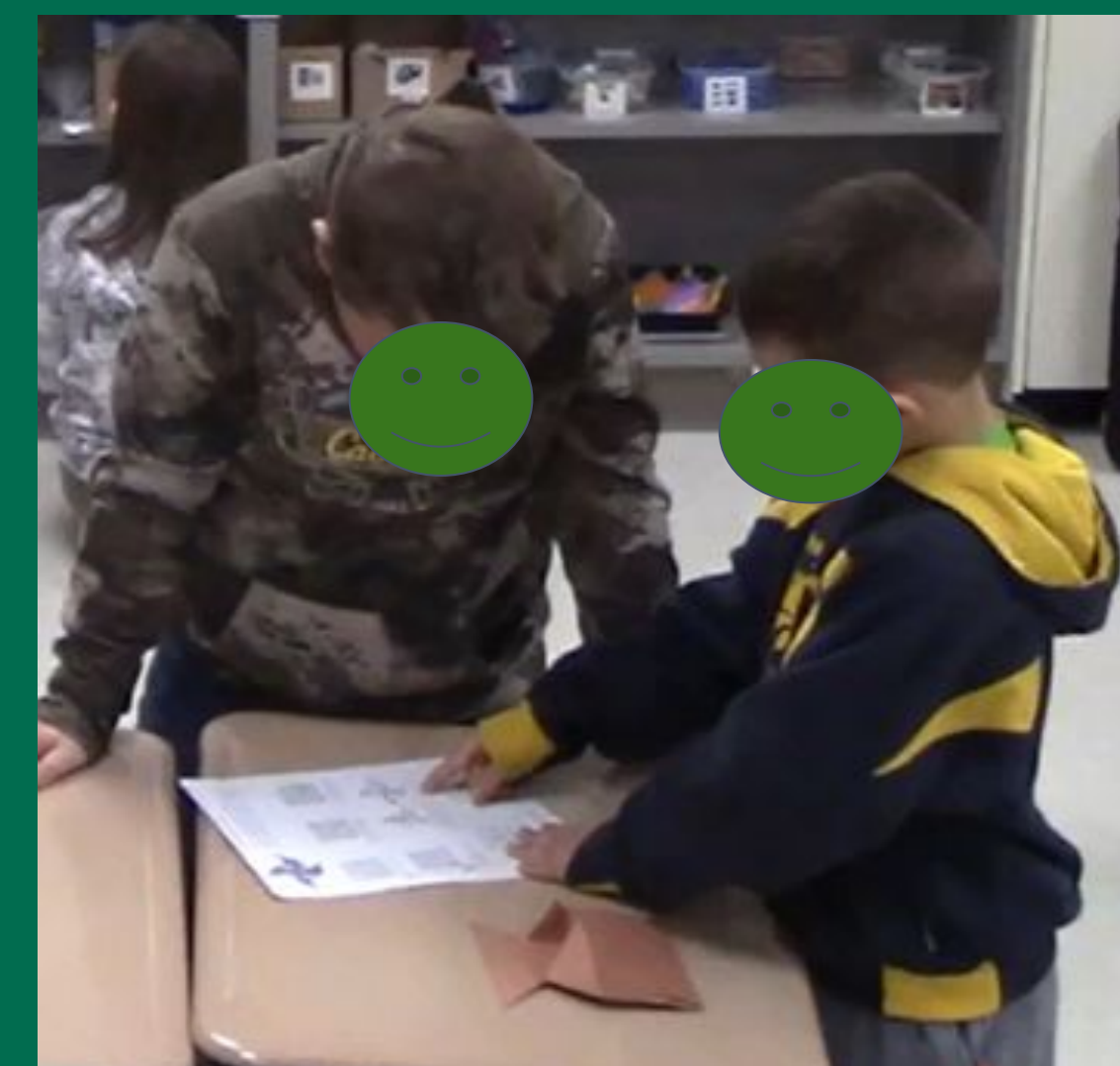
## FINDINGS

- ❖ Children’s creativity thinking behaviors include **BOTH** flexibility and persistence.
- ❖ Creativity and creative thinking should be considered within physical context.

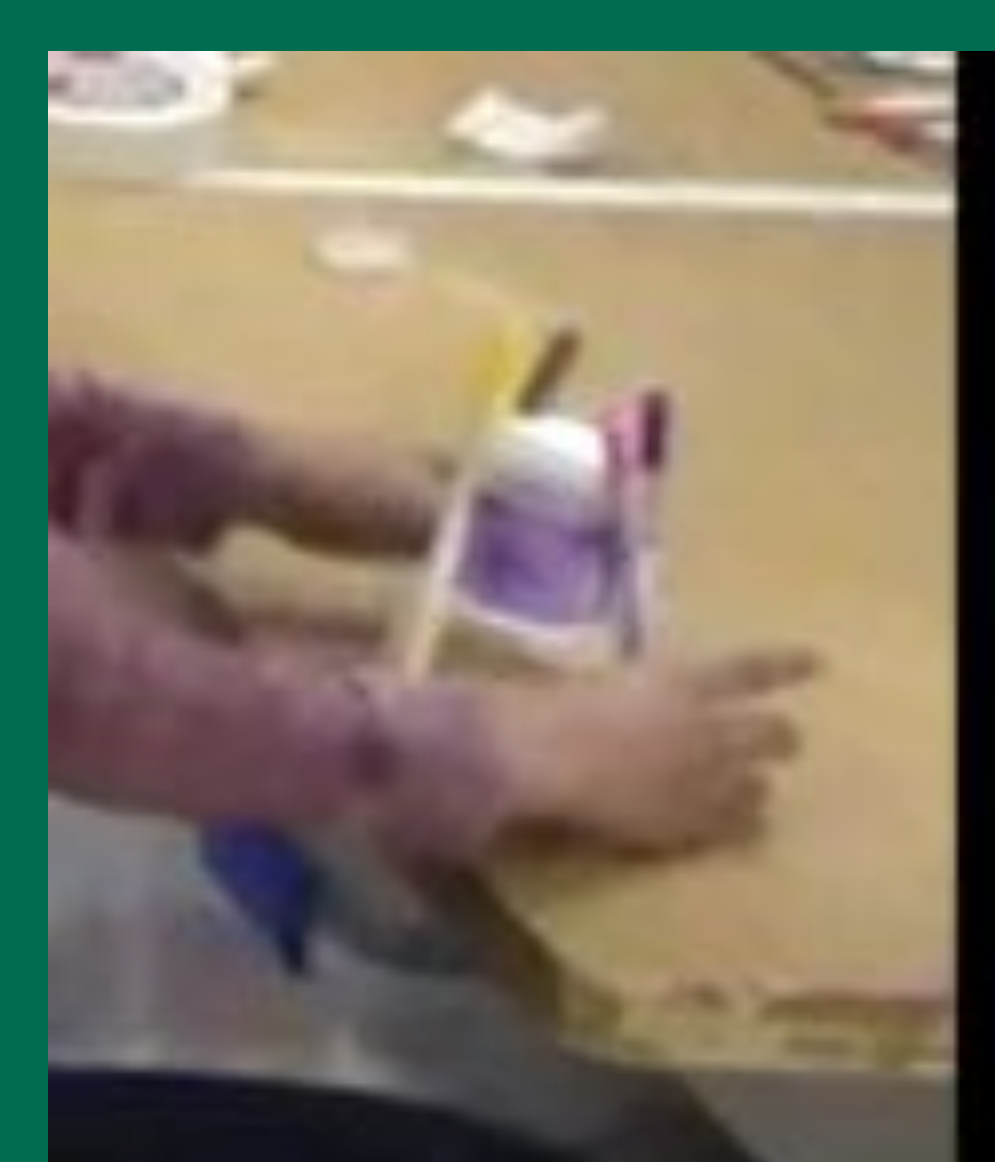
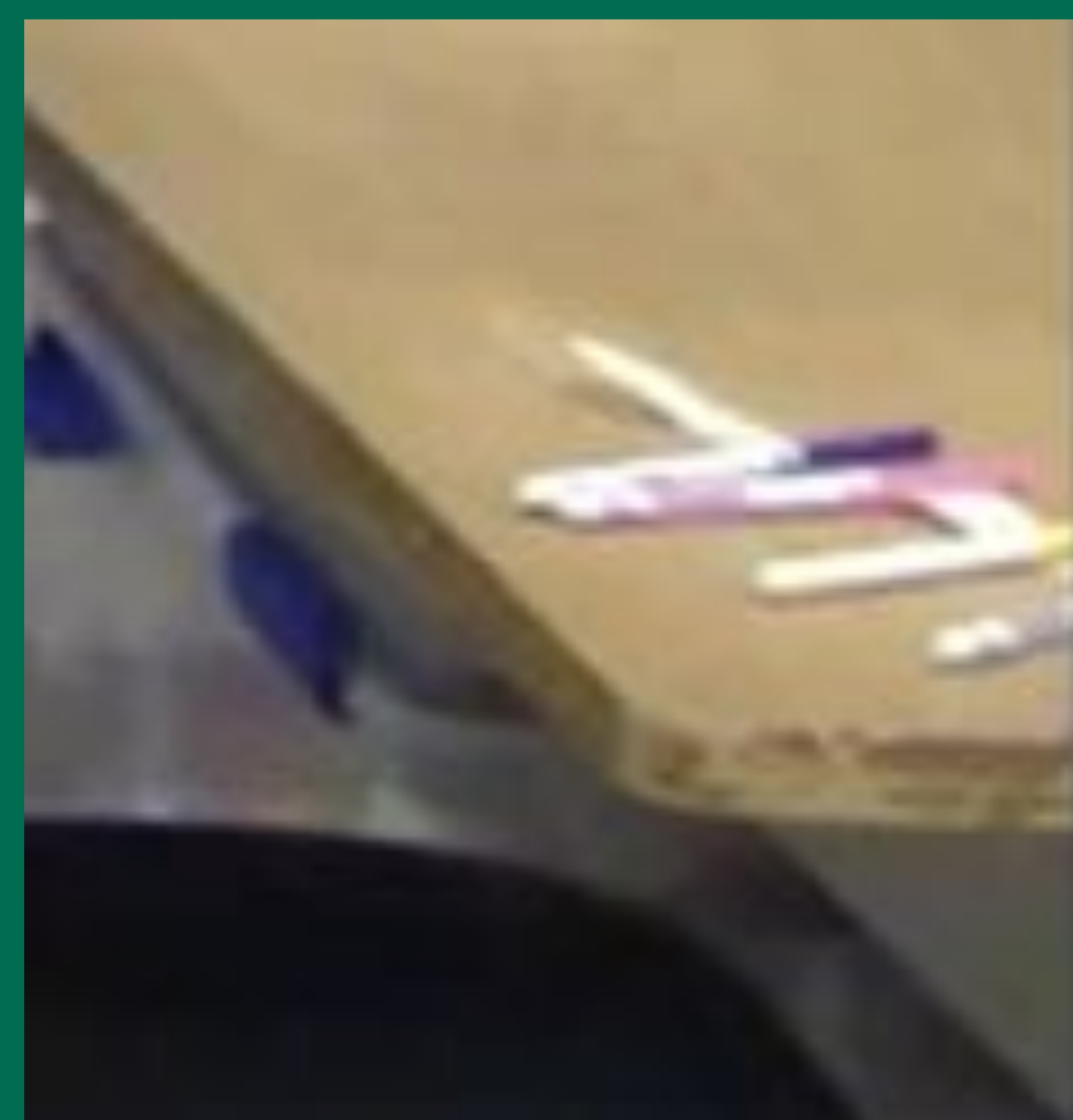
# Creativity and creative thinking is not unique to whether a person is a divergent or convergent thinker. The environment influences behaviors antecedent to creativity.



Joe needed time and space to progress from rigid persistence to flexibly trying different ways to complete his snowplough.



Zelda’s flexibility to try different ways to make things often prevented him from completing his projects until the last session.



Thunderman persisted in making a scribble bot but had to be flexible trying out different ways to attach the markers to the cup.



## Creative Thinking Behaviors

EXPLORATION = Children’s behaviors related to the approach to new situation or learning.

- ❖ Exploring
- ❖ Engaging in new activity/project
- ❖ Deciding what to do

Involvement & Enjoyment = Children’s behaviors related to the creative PROCESS

- ❖ Trying out different ideas (flexibility)
- ❖ Analyzing ideas
- ❖ Speculating
- ❖ Involving others

PERSISTENCE = Children’s behaviors related to facing challenges

- ❖ Persisting
- ❖ Risk-taking
- ❖ Completing challenges

## Convergent & Divergent Thinking

Convergent Thinking:

- ❖ Connected to **persistence**
- ❖ Focused on finding the single best solution
- ❖ Rule-based thinking

Divergent Thinking:

- ❖ Linked to **flexibility**
- ❖ More creative thinking than convergent
- ❖ Not as focused on one solution, but rather open to trying many different solutions.
- ❖ Thinking “outside the box”

Connections to Creativity:

- ❖ Although convergent and divergent thinking processes contrast, both are important for creativity to occur.

Take a picture to download more information

