

CARLY: When I was in preschool, my mom would give me ten minutes to go into my closet and pick out my clothes that I was going to wear for that day. I didn't care what the clothing looked like, most of the time I came up with pretty interesting outfits. I would grab a shirt I thought was pretty then put it on. Then I would grab pants that I liked even if they didn't match. I liked them both, so I wore them together. I was able to dress myself not caring what other people thought of me. Everyday I set foot to school wearing whatever I wanted; I was able to show my individuality without caring about other people's judgments.

Now I'm a senior in high school. On an average it takes me about twenty to thirty minutes to get ready. When I wake up in the morning, I put on an outfit that I normally want to wear. Then I take it off the shirt and put on a new one, next I'll change the pants. I'll keep changing my mind about different shirts or pants that I have. Then after about fifteen minutes, I end up going back to the first outfit I originally had on. The reason I went back and forth is back and forth is because I care about what certain people think, mostly myself thank goodness. If I really cared a lot about what people thought of me then it would take me a lot longer in the mornings to get ready. I would have to look perfect for them and not myself. That just doesn't seem reasonable. After a while I would go crazy.

Due to my feelings back then and now, I set out to explore the differences between preschoolers and high school students. I wanted to show that high school students have it harder than preschoolers but people already know that. I needed to find a new twist to my story. I have three younger siblings that I spend a lot of time with every day. They are ages 8, 3, and 1. When my brother, Jack, and I play outside, we come up with the most interesting stories. We use our imagination to create these crazy stories. I decided to go out exploring how preschool children use their imagination, where it comes from, and what influences it. I went to a preschool called, Los Altos Parent Preschool (LAPP). There I met 10 very creative kids. They were all very different, but similar in some ways. I spent many of my lunches with them taking pictures and learning their stories.

I interviewed three of the preschool students, Libby, Gray, and Sophia. I first started by asking them what they wanted to be when they grew up. They all told me very different answers for different reasons. Libby was first and she said...

LIBBY: Teenager princess dragon. That's a dragon that's a teenager and it's a princess that's very fro fro. I'm going to be all the colors in the whole world; it can fly and live in clouds.

CARLY: Although her reality will hit, she will soon realize that she cannot be a teenage princess dragon. There is no harm in her imagining it for now. When she gets a little older she may soon start to change her mind. Then Gray told me that he wanted to be a...

GRAY: I want to be an animal rescuer on land and on water and I want to be a doctor's animal doctors and people doctor.

CARLY: He told me that he really loved animals and that he wanted to help out. Sophia was next and she said. Sophia was next and she said...

SOPHIA: um, I wanna be a momma cause they have babies.

CARLY: None of the kids told me that they wanted to make money. They wanted to be business people; they wanted to have a big house and fancy cars. They told me they wanted to be something they loved. Libby wants to be a teenage princess dragon not many kids tell you that. She is very creative and is able to use her creativity in life. Gray wants to be an animal and human doctor to help people. He doesn't know they get paid well but that doesn't even matter to him. He doesn't care about money. Sophia wants to be a mommy, because they have babies. All of their answers are creative and shows their individuality. Then I asked them what they like to do in class. They said they like to draw. I asked them what they like to draw and they told me...

LIBBY: I like to draw flower gardens, and I also like to draw with my markers

CARLY: She started to draw me a picture of flowers and to her they were the most beautiful flowers. To her they were amazing. She is in the stage of her life where she can explore the limits of things. If she wants to draw a flower she can draw a flower however she wants. It doesn't matter what I think of it, or what her classmates think of it to her it would be the most wonderful flower. Then Gray told me what he likes to draw.

GRAY: Well I really like to draw big monsters and stuff.

CARLY: Most boys would tell you they like to draw scary things. They use their imagination to draw what a monster looks like to them. There are no such things as monsters but when your 5 you don't really understand that. Big monsters could be your big sister, or the monster under the bed, or that sock monster that steals your socks from the washing machine. It all depends on what your imagination can come up with.

I wanted to know what these kids like to do outside of school. If they used their creativity passed the school walls. Maybe they went to the park maybe they watched TV, maybe they went to a friend's house, what do they do.

LIBBY: I love playing chess and card but I don't have any chess players. But I also very much like to have plays I like to act out John Smith and Pocahontas

CARLY: She also said...

LIBBY: I adore playing outside.

CARLY: Gray told me that...

GRAY: I like to play soccer practice and now I'm asking my mom to get me into basketball practice

CARLY: Sophia told me that...

SOPHIA: Um someone of my favorite things to do is to play outside and go on the swings and some of the things I also like to do is climb trees

CARLY: All kids love to have fun outside. They get to stretch their legs and learn. They get to play around and be goofy. Libby Sophia and Gray love to play outside. They love to play sports I think that it is super important for kids to be active. It helps their brains expand with new ideas and keeps their bodies healthy. I found a quote by Picasso:

“Each second we live is a new and unique moment of the universe, a moment that will never be again. And what do we teach our children? We teach them that two and two make four, and that Paris is the capital of France. When will we also teach them what they are? We should say to each of them: Do you know what you are? You are a marvel. You are unique. In all the years that have passed, there has never been another child like you. Your legs, your arms, your clever fingers, the way you move. You may become a Shakespeare, a Michelangelo, a Beethoven. You have the capacity for anything. Yes, you are a marvel. And when you grow up, can you then harm another who is, like you, a marvel? You must work; we must all work, to make the world worthy of its children.”

I choose this quote because I really like the message it sends. It says that each child is creative and their own person. No two people are the same. When he says we teach them that two and two make four and that Paris is the capital of France, and when will we teach them who they are is strong. In the beginning of our lives we are figuring out who we are, what we are. We are exploring ourselves and the world around us. I asked Libby and Sophia to tell me a story any story that they wanted. They both used their creative and came up with their own imaginative story.

LIBBY: once upon a time there was a little girl named Libby and she had never gone in the woods again, and got lost and hurt by a bear. The end.

SOPHIA: There was a little girl. She was named Sarah. She was a really pretty little girl cause she always likes to go to the doctor's office every morning, but every morning she couldn't do that only on Mondays, cause those were the only days he could not go to school. And she was very sad sometimes cause she couldn't go to the doctors off. But sometimes she could go in the nighttime. The End.

CARLY: Even though their stories don't really make a lot of sense, they came up with their own ideas. They used their imagination to tell me a story. I then asked them to sing me a song. Libby sang to me twinkle twinkle little star with an ending she made up herself, and Sophia sang me a song I have never heard before.

LIBBY: Twinkle Twinkle little star, up above the sky, above the sky you have always come to me, I have always see you tonight, you are the prettiest star and I love you so much.

SOPHIA: a little flower went home with a little kitty cat. The kitty cat went home to save her day. She went on a butterfly to have a ride and its really actually very fun every time.

CARLY: After spending time with the kids I learned that anybody can be creative. All it takes is to stretch what you believe in and explore new things. If you do the same thing every day you will get bored. You need to try new things and live your life the way you want it to be lived. Being creative helps people to live their lives in a beautiful way. Whether it's photography drawing, painting, writing, dancing, or anything you love to do you can make it creative. My mom always told me ' you were born and original don't die a copy. When people act like others they start to lose their individuality and that's the worst thing that could happen. Everybody should be more creative. If all we think about is what other people are thinking we will lose our minds. Everyone will become robots. No one will be original. These kids taught me to be more of myself. And to not let the pressure from other people get to me.