

## The Effect of Group Based Activities on the Creativity of Teacher Trainees in a Material Development Course

### Abstract

The aim of this study was to determine the effects of creativity activities in a group on material development on the creativity of teacher trainees in an instructional technologies and material development course. This research was conducted in the autumn of 2007–2008 with two classes of 3rd grade students at Mersin University, Turkey. In this research a quasi-experimental method was used. Results showed that the students working as a group constructed more original ideas. They stated that group work, brainstorming and intersection of different ideas contributed to their creativity development. The creativity of teacher trainees in this group was significantly increased. The most predictive variable which decreases the post creativity scores of the students were the pre-creativity scores.

**Key words:** *creativity, instructional technologies, instructional material development, group work, constructivism.*

### Introduction

Teacher trainees should have higher order thinking and life skills such as innovation, critical and creative thinking, problem solving, information and communication technologies. In previous decades, teachers were expected to train only a small minority for ambitious intellectual work, whereas they are now expected to train virtually all students for higher order thinking and performance skills once reserved for only a few (Hammond, 2006). As critical thinking and creativity have