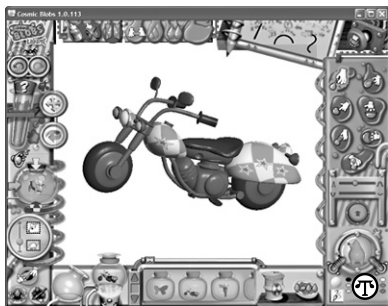


Pointers **For Parents** **Encouraging Creative** **Thinking In Kids**

(NAPSA)—The challenge of unlocking a child's creative ability may sometimes be a difficult proposition, but releasing this imaginative spark in young people is a worthwhile cause for today's parents. Experts say learning to be creative can help children develop critical thinking skills for success in school and life.



Software can help children express their creativity.

There are a variety of ways that parents can help their children find their inner artist. For instance, children can use a new type of software to make three-dimensional artwork on a PC. The software, called Cosmic Blobs, lets kids create, manipulate and animate virtually any character or invention as if they were using digital modeling clay.

The interface of the creativity software resembles a colorful chemistry lab and lets kids intuitively apply 3-D processes such as stretching, squeezing and rotating to their creations. Their "Blob" can have elegant lines and hundreds of possible colors and textures. Kids can animate their Blobs, e-mail them to friends, print them, paste them onto a school report or transform them into a custom instant-messaging buddy icon.

For more information, visit www.cosmicblobs.com.