

E. T. - A LOCAL WAY OF LEARNING

Title: PLAYGROUND

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Grade Level: 5-8

Concepts: 2. Ecosystem
3. Carrying Capacity
7. Land Use

Disciplines: 1. Language Arts
2. Social Studies
3. Health

Objective:
Students shall observe the schoolyard to see in what ways the children's needs for recreational activities are being met, or are not being met. Students shall be alert to how well children play together.

Rationale:
Teachers and other adults usually are the only ones who observe children at play. However, at the elementary level social interaction provides learning for living and later success in getting along and being happy in life. The playground may be the setting for much of this drama.

Materials Needed:
Note pad and pencil.

Directions/Activities:

A. Recording Observations:

1. Count or estimate the number of boys and girls playing on the campus at this time of day. Boys: _____ Girls: _____ Time of day (before school, during recess, after school, etc.): _____

What are the ages or grade levels of the children? _____

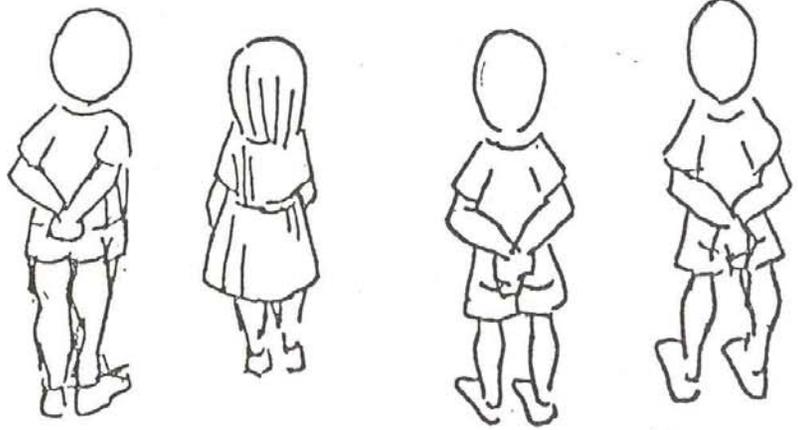
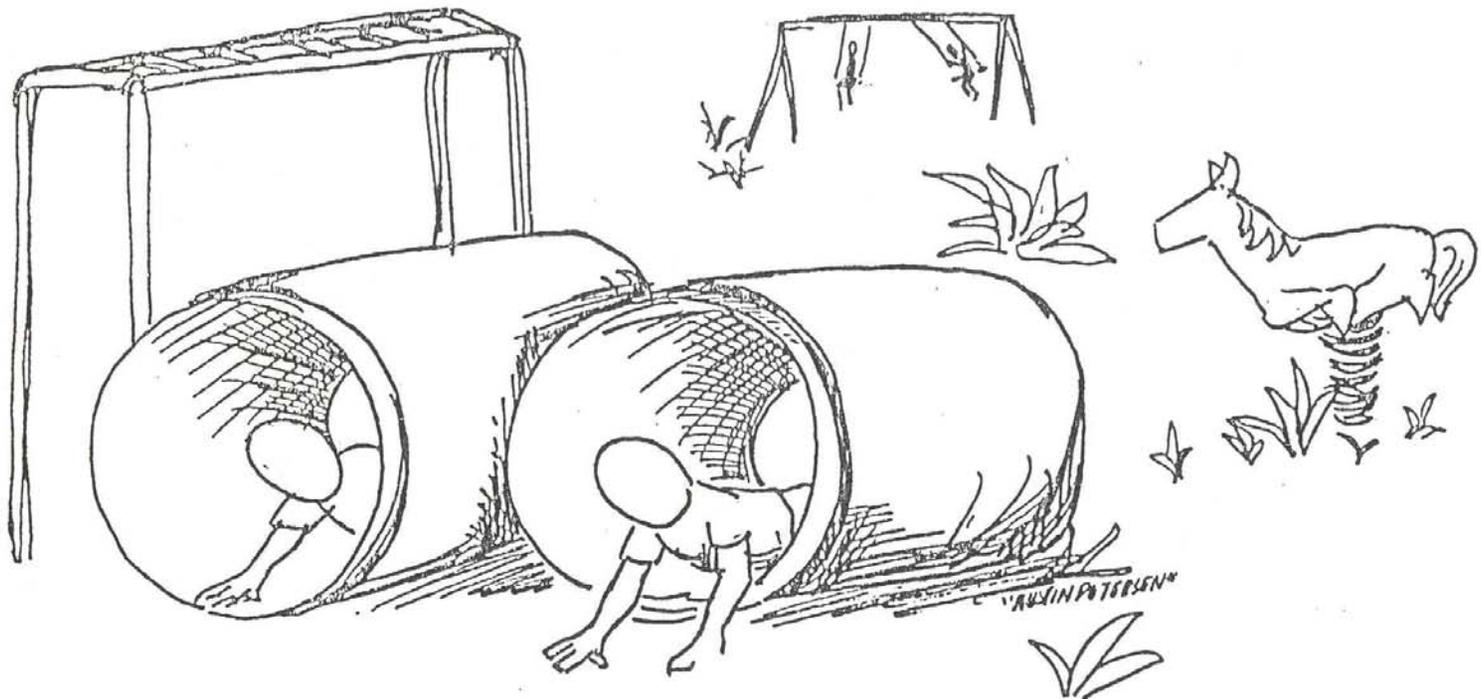
Is there a teacher supervising activities on the playground? _____

If yes, what is the teacher's name? _____

What does the teacher teach in this school? _____

What games are the boys playing? _____

What games are the girls playing? _____



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What games are the boys and girls playing together, if any?

How many of the children seem to be "just standing around doing nothing? _____

Explain why you think they are just standing around?

2. What playground equipment is being used most frequently by the children?

What playground equipment is not being used by the children?

Explain why you think children are not using it? _____

3. Look carefully to see if there are boys and girls teasing or "picking on" other boys and girls. If you find this happening, what do you think are the reasons for the teasing, etc.?

B. Complete the following on a separate sheet of paper:

1. Identify other kinds of playground equipment you would like to have added to the school ground which can be safely used by children.

2. What are some things you can do to make your school ground a safer and better place to play?

3. List reasons why you think it is important for children to have good playgrounds at school and time to use them.

4. Write an essay using the observations you have made.

5. Write a newspaper story (What's the difference? Remember the paper will cut your story from the bottom if there is lack of space in the paper, so get your 5 W's and How, in the first paragraph, elaborate in the second paragraph, put further detail in the third paragraph, etc.)

6. Can you draw or find plans for equipment using poles, pipes, tires or packing cases to enhance the playground for the primary students?