

Student Survey & Mapping Activity

This activity is a great way to get students actively engaged in the planning and design process for their new or upgraded outdoor learning and play spaces. Please return all completed worksheets to the planning team.

Depending on the ages of your students, this activity can be adjusted to include different curriculum elements (for example, you could have students use the plan drawing to calculate the area of different schoolyard elements).

Goals:

1. Gather information from students about their schoolyard that can be used in the design process to create the best possible outdoor play and learning environment
2. Expand student's awareness of their school grounds, improve their observational skills
3. Introduce students to mapping (if they haven't already done a mapping activity in class)
4. Have fun!

Materials:

8.5 x 11" or larger copies of the school plan (if you are doing a math activity, make sure they are printed to an accurate scale)
Clipboards or cardboard backing with clips to make writing and drawing outside easier
Markers, pencils, or pens

Instructions:

Block out a minimum of 50 mins for this activity (include 5 mins of free time at the end).

Start by spending 20 minutes in the classroom, with students filling out the survey on the following pages. Encourage them to draw and write their responses.

Next, gather students outside, and have them break into pairs

- Hand out 1 map/site plan per student pair, and distribute writing instruments
- Explain the map and locate where you currently are standing
- Get started! Have students draw and write their observations directly on the map
- Allow students 5-10 minutes of free outdoor play once the activity is complete

This activity may also be broken up over two school days if desired.

the outdoor

PLAYbook

Schoolyard Planning Survey - for Students!

Name:

Age:

Grade:

School:

Please write or draw your answers

What games do you play on the playground?

What do you and your friends like to do outside?

Do you learn outside? How do you learn school subjects in the school yard?

If you could fix up the playground and make it your dream playground, what would you change?

Let's Get Mapping!

Work as a team to draw and write on the school map (or site plan) to locate the items below & check them off as you go along.

- Living things - trees, grass, shrubs, flowers
- Natural materials - rocks & boulders, wood, soil, mounds
- Structures made by people - concrete, light posts, play equipment
- Games and sports - fields, sports courts, painted games like hopscotch
- Sunny & shady places, warm & cold places, windy places
- Places where you play games - draw the games, or write their names
- Areas where leaves collect
- Places for being quiet, or for hanging out (either with a group of friends, or by yourself)
- Where do puddles collect after it rains?
- Draw any animals, birds, or insects you have seen around the school
- Mark out your favourite place or places
- Are there good and bad things about the school grounds?
- Games and sports - fields, sports courts, painted games like hopscotch
- Sunny & shady places, warm & cold places, windy places
- Places where you play games - draw the games, or write their names
- Areas where leaves collect
- Places for being quiet, or for hanging out (either with a group of friends, or by yourself)
- Where do puddles collect after it rains?