



PLAY IT SAFE

YEARS 2-4

Aim

Students will consider aspects of the play area that can be improved to enhance safety.

Description

We spend one-fifth of our day at school in the playground and yard. There are many ways to make the playground a better place for everyone and today you and your students will be the 'advisors'.

Resources

Playground survey (multiple copies or one per group)

Activity steps

- 1** Explain to the class that all playgrounds are different. Some have lots of room to play while others have very little. The most important thing is that there are ways to keep active and feel safe and happy.
- 2** Have students think about their playground.
 - What equipment is there to play on?
 - Are there areas for older children and younger children?
 - Can you eat outside? If so, where?
 - Are there covered and uncovered areas?
 - Are there areas for active games and quiet games?
 - Are there areas to meet new friends?
- 3** Ask students to talk with the person next to them for 2 minutes to try to answer the questions.
- 4** Next, students find the safest areas to play. Have students complete the survey of the playground to see if and how the playground can be made safer and better for everyone. Ask students to work with a partner. Together, they can take the survey sheet and do a 15-minute walk around the playground to help them answer the questions.





- 5 Next, students will use the information about the playground to complete the BRAIN activity to see how the playground can be improved.

Divide the class into groups of four, and allocate one part of the playground to each group. (No worksheet is required.)

The BRAIN activity will ask students to think about the playground to:

Beautify it in some way
Replace or reorganise some parts of it
Add or remove parts of it
Increase or decrease parts of it
Name it differently.

- 6 Imagine your school principal has given you some money to make some improvements to the playground. What would you like to do?

Have students make a list of ideas using the BRAIN concept; ask them to make their recommendations realistic.

- 7 Allow each group a time to share their ideas with the whole class.

- 8 Create a list of the top five improvements the students think can be made to the playground.

- 9 Organise a group of students to present these to the student representative council or the principal for consideration.

PLAYGROUND SURVEY

Play it safe handout 1

Conduct a survey of your playground during playtime. Circle the word that best describes your observations of your school's playground.

Survey statement	True	Unsure	Not true
1. Our playground is a safe area for children to play in.	True	Unsure	Not true
2. There is playground equipment available for children to play on.	True	Unsure	Not true
3. There is playground equipment for both younger and older kids in the school such as swings, slides, climbing frames.	True	Unsure	Not true
4. The playground equipment is in good condition, for example there are no loose chains or cracks in slides and so on.	True	Unsure	Not true
5. There are places for students to eat in our playground.	True	Unsure	Not true
6. There are covered areas in our playground so we can be protected from the sun.	True	Unsure	Not true
7. There are areas in our playground where we can play quiet games.	True	Unsure	Not true
8. There is space for all the students to run around in our playground.	True	Unsure	Not true
9. There is equipment available for students to use in the playground such as balls and skipping ropes.	True	Unsure	Not true
10. There are line markings in our playground for playing ball games.	True	Unsure	Not true
11. There are trees to sit under in our playground.	True	Unsure	Not true
12. We can interact with nature in our playground, for example we can play in the leaves, look for bugs, watch plants grow and change, relax on the grass	True	Unsure	Not true
13. There are drinking taps that we can use close to or in our playground.	True	Unsure	Not true
14. Older students are able to play with younger students in the playground.	True	Unsure	Not true



15. There are places for meeting new friends in our playground.	True	Unsure	Not true
16. There are school rules that make sure students are safe in the playground.	True	Unsure	Not true
17. Teachers on playground duty help to keep the playground safe by stopping unsafe behaviour.	True	Unsure	Not true

Write your own opinions about the school playground below.

Survey statement	True	Unsure	Not true
18. There are lots of interesting things for me to do in our playground. Some examples are:	True	Unsure	Not true
19. I enjoy meeting new friends in the playground.	True	Unsure	Not true
20. I feel safe in our playground.	True	Unsure	Not true

21. Where do you feel **most** safe in the playground?

22. Where do you feel **least** safe in the playground?

23. What do you like most about your playground? Make a list here:

24. What new features would you like to see in your playground? Make a list here:





'BRAIN'-RECORD SHEET:

Play it safe handout 2

School playground improvement ideas

Conduct a survey of your playground during playtime.

Our names:

	Who led each discussion?	Our ideas
Beautify it in some way.		
Replace or reorganize some parts of it.		
Add or remove parts of it.		
Increase or decrease parts of it.		
Name it differently.		

McGrath, HL & Noble, T 2010, *Hits and hots: teaching + thinking + social skills*, Pearson Education, Melbourne

