

CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING

Helping teachers create engaging, responsive, and inspiring classrooms

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ENGAGING RESPONSIVE INSPIRING

School leaders, teachers, and parents can have an extremely positive impact on climate by organizing activities on the playground...



HARVEST CIVILITY ON THE PLAYGROUND

Playgrounds are fertile environments to sow seeds of responsibility and harvest the virtues of community, competition, and civility.



In many schools, playgrounds are not viewed with such potential. An increasing number of educators have suggested that schools ought to diminish or even eliminate recess altogether.



They argue that problems such as teasing, bullying, and fighting make it increasingly difficult to foster environments conducive to learning.

While these challenges do exist, abandoning recess inherently punishes students for our lack of planning. By putting simple systems in place (see margin), playground challenges can be significantly reduced.



Getting students, educators, and stakeholders directly involved in organizing recess can dramatically improve school climate and have a profound effect on student achievement.

Let Them Play!

J. Knighton



COMMUNITY-COMPETITION-CIVILITY

Let Them Play!

Peer Mediation



1) **Establish a conflict resolution** program that trains students to solve problems non-violently and peacefully.

Intramural Activities

2) **Organize games** such as soccer, basketball, kickball, volleyball, softball, flag football, etc.

Active Supervision

3) **Establish a safe environment** for young people by being vocal. Interact frequently and point out what students are doing well. By doing so, you establish clear expectations and develop positive, respectful relationships with students.

Clubs & Hobbies

4) **Lead activities** such as chess, drama, dance, student council, art, debate, technology, etc.

Establish Clear Rules

5) **Ensure understanding** of various outside games (tether ball, wall ball, four square, etc.) by clarifying the rules and putting rules in writing. Ask teachers to review and practice the games during PE as needed.