2010-2011 PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES ORIENTATION INFORMATION

URL:  http://www.brandeis.edu/Lemberg/
Email:  lembreg@brandeis.edu

781-736-2200 (voice)
781-736-2202 (classroom)
Playground Rules and Procedures

- Children should wear proper clothing when going outside. Please talk to a head teacher or teacher about what clothing is necessary.
- When outside adults are positioned to visibly supervise the children and in some areas to be close at hand when children are on the climbing structure, swing, orange slide, monkey bars and other activities that are brought outside in the table area.
- Children can not be outside without adult supervision. Children wait for an adult to go out with them. Even when there is an adult outside, children must ask a Head Teacher or supervising teacher to join friends on the playground. The HT or Teacher will make sure the staffing on the playground is appropriate before allowing children on the playground. The whereabouts of all children is essential and an attendance list must be kept on the playground, as well as on walks.
- The adult to child ratio outside should be 1:5 for mixed ages (1:4 for Toddlers) and never more than 1:8 for more than 5 minutes. **If there are not enough adults outside for the ratio OR you feel uncomfortable with the number of children you are supervising, let a supervising teacher know.**
- Playground areas need proper supervision to be opened for children to play. Usually we open first the area outside the classroom doors. When an adult is available to open the swings or older children’s climbing structure, we can do so. If children ask to open a closed area, the supervising teacher makes this call for this happening.
- The older children’s climbing structure needs to be carefully supervised (frequently it requires two adults to do so). Children can take turns on the monkey bars, one at a time. Please pay careful attention to children climbing on bars.
- TA’s may bring activities from the classroom outside. Whoever brings activities usually kept inside to the playground is responsible for the supervision, clean up and return of the activity to the classroom.
- If someone is hurt, stay with the child and call for help. Get word to the supervising teacher and have nearest adult take charge of children in your care or take charge of the injured child. Only staff certified in First Aid procedures should care for the injured child. Reassure children who are observing that the injured child will be fine. Sometimes another child will be asked to help with the injured child. This is common when the other child had something to do with the injury. (Note: Wear GLOVES when blood is part of the injury. There is a first aid pack on the playground.)
- Children’s personal toys should remain inside unless approved by supervising teacher. These personal toys need to be supervised outside.
• Children can walk on nailed down benches around sandbox. They may walk on the other benches if a teacher is next to them on the outside as the children walk by.
• Benches in the playhouses are for sitting; discourage standing by suggesting another area for standing tall, such as the bench in the sandbox.
• Toys should not be thrown from the windows in the big playhouse.
• Bikes should stay on the paved walkways.
• Children should be sitting on the bikes when riding them.

• Sand should stay in the sandbox or sand areas. Remind children of proper areas to dump the sand. The sand makes the blacktop slippery. The deck area is closed to sand play and buckets carrying sand.
• Shovels are used for digging and non-violent dramatic play. Unless part of a teacher supervised dramatic play activity.
• Milk crates can be stacked as high as a child's shoulders and never near the fence.
• Children climb on climbing structures (not rocks).
• Metal-legged chairs should be right side up or under adult supervision when used for dramatic play. If up-side-down, falling into the leg can be dangerous.
• Children wanting to use the swings should wait for their turn behind the fence outside the swing area. The swing area should be free of toys. When children are waiting turns should not exceed ten minutes. A kitchen timer can be used to regulate the amount of time children are on the swings.
• Children bringing water outside in buckets need adult supervision. Check with supervising teacher about when this kind of activity is best done.
• When asked to supervise an area, you should not leave it until you have asked another adult to supervise children there. When an area you are asked to supervise does not have children, communicate this to the supervising teacher unless another area needs your immediate help.
• Puddles should be swept dry. Children may play in puddles if wearing the proper attire.
• When a child wants to go inside (e.g. to go to toilet, cubby) an adult most be available to supervise this. Check with supervising teacher.
Activities for Outside, Playground and Ideas for Transitions

"Outdoor play is an extension of what goes on in the classroom..." --Leanne Sanjume Errett (Beginnings Workshop, p. 47) Play with the children, enjoy their playtime. Chase them, tickle them, push them on the swings, talk with them, play ball with them...Have fun. The playground is a place for fun and learning. We made a list of activities that easily came to us. This list is provided to support continual growth on the playground.

GAMES

“Duck, Duck, Goose”
“Hide-n-Seek”
“Mirror Game”
“Shadow Game”
Make volcanoes in the sandbox
“Treasure Hunt”
Alphabet scavenger hunt
Moving like a turtle, snake, rabbit . . .
“Animal Boogie”
“Human Pretzel Game”
“Ring-a-Round-a-Rosy”
Parachute games
“Popcorn” with parachute
“Follow-the-leader”
“Simon Says”
Counting games
“What time is it Mr. Fox”
“Hot & Cold”
“Red Light, Green Light”
“Musical Chairs”
“I spy”
“Ha Ha game” (without laughing)
“Telephone”
“Who stole the cookie...”
“Hey Jill, Someone’s calling my name”
Cooperative games
“Thumper Thumper”
“Wanna buy a duck”

SPORTS

Gymnastics
Balance Beam
Swings
Kickball (or kickball through tires)
Basketball
Hopscotch
Trampoline
Catch with balls, beanbags, and scarves
Hula Hoops
Kites- (Airplanes, Butterflies)
Handball
Wonderball

MONKEY IN THE MIDDLE
Spud
Balance Beam
Obstacle course
Relay race
Frisbee

SCIENCE/NATURE

Bubbles
Insect hunt
Rock identification
Leaf, Flower identification
Tree and tree limb identification
Mud soup
Pulleys and Buckets
Aluminum Foil Nature Prints
Sifters with sand buckets
Measuring things
Magnifying glasses
Water table
Gardening
Water- rivers, etc.
Volcanoes
Spider out of pipe cleaners
Burying things
Nature walks
Looking for signs of spring
Wind-pinwheels, wind chimes, streamers

ARTS

Rock painting
Easel and mural painting
Rubbings with crayons or chalk
Printing

ARTS Continued:

Rock painting
Easel and mural painting
Rubbings with crayons or chalk
Printing
Reading
Singing
Dancing to music
Parachute dancing
Parades with musical instruments
Building things and Counting Games
Drawing with chalk

DRAMATIC PLAY
Mystery stories
Trucks & Shovels
Rocket ships
Underwater quests
Task Cards
Role-playing
Dress Up
Pretending to be pets

THEME DAYS
Sand Castle day
Color Day

RULES
Change toys regularly
Remove damaged equipment from playground
Report unsafe equipment
WALKS AWAY FROM LEMBERG HALL

Since our program started in 1971, the staff and parents have enjoyed taking the children on discovery walks around the campus and on off-campus outings. We feel that it is beneficial for the children to see parents working, and to visit laboratories, museums, theaters, libraries, gyms, athletic fields, our computer center and similar educational facilities. Additionally we have transported the children off campus to museums, gardens, farms and orchards, firehouses, for hikes in the woods, to city hall, and to factories, where the focus has been to provide important educational information.

Walks on and off campus

Before the children leave the center, the teacher in charge of the group will fill out a "Walks Form." The form lists names of children, staff, destination, time of departure and expected time for return and cell phone number of a staff member on the walk. The supervising teacher must help plan the walk that the children are to take. Responsibility for children on a walk is assumed by the Head Teacher and the adult designated to lead the walk.

1. Two or more adults will accompany children.
   
   **Group sizes:**
   
   - Head Teacher + two aides = up to 9 children
   - Senior level TA + one aide = up to 6 children
   - Two aides = up to 4 children
   - Head Teacher + 4 adults = up to 19 children
   
   (With two aides in special circumstances)

2. Only Head Teachers can take up to three children on walks without an accompanying adult.

3. If the Head Teacher and the Director believe that a child needs regular walks for special attention or other educational reasons, a TA may be assigned to this work. If a TA is assigned, the child's parents must agree to the assignment and to the educational need.

4. A FIRST AID KIT AND CELL PHONE MUST BE CARRIED ON THE WALK