

**Belmont Elementary School  
Cool Tool**

**Activity: Reinforcing Playground Expectations**  
(Adapted from Thorntons Ferry School)

**Grade Levels:** K through 4

**Duration:** Two Weeks (one week per objective)

**Objective #1:** To introduce students to the behaviors of including others, taking turns, and using kind words.

**Objective #2:** To maintain an emotionally and physically safe playground environment.

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**Suggested Playground Scenarios for Objective #1**

1. Three girls were playing Four Square on the playground when one of them noticed that another girl was standing by herself watching them. *(The girl who noticed her let the other two girls know that she would like to invite her to play Four Square with them. They all agreed. When they invited the girl to play, she smiled and ran over to them.)*
2. Two even teams of children were playing soccer at recess when Susan came by and asked to play. One of the boys yelled, "No, the teams are full! You can't play! Go away!" *(Another boy stopped and remembered that it was respectful to involve everyone and take turns, so he said, "Susan can switch in and out with me so that we can all play.")*

**Suggested Playground Scenarios for Objective #2**

1. Joey was standing on the monkey bars and wanted to get the attention of another group of boys playing on the soccer field nearby. He yelled out, "Watch me! I'm going to jump from way up here!" *(Another student heard him, turned around, and yelled, "Don't jump! You could hurt yourself.")*
2. While you are waiting in line for your turn on the tire swing, another student runs over and pushes you out of the line to take your place. *(You remind the student of the rules for the tire swing and ask them to go to the end of the line. Then you tell an adult what happened because it is never okay to push someone on the playground.)*

### **Student Activities for Objective #1**

#### **(Kindergarten, Readiness, Grade 1)**

1. As students sit at Circle Time, read them the above scenarios. Feel free to create other scenarios, as needed. Do not read the italicized words. Those are examples of hopeful responses! After each scenario is read, have the students brainstorm possible "respectful" solutions to the problems given.

#### **(Grades 2 through 4)**

1. Type the scenarios on cards and leave them around the room in centers. (Remember to only type the scenario, not the italicized responses.) As students move through each center, have them brainstorm solutions to the problems presented. At some time during the day, have the students share their solutions with each other.
2. Role play situations that include taking turns and/or including others.

## **Student Activities for Objective #2**

1. Review the various types of equipment and discuss how to use each piece of equipment properly.

### **(Kindergarten, Readiness, Grade 1)**

2. Repeat the Circle Time activity mentioned above. Change the scenarios to reflect those dealing with objective #2 (safety issues).

### **(Grades 2 through 4)**

2. Repeat the "Center" activity mentioned above. Change the scenarios to reflect those dealing with objective #2 (safety issues).

3. Role play situations that include safety situations.

**Reinforcement Activity/ "Gotcha":** After each lesson has been taught to the students, grade levels will be rewarded for practicing respectful and safe playground behavior. Grade levels will earn recess points on a daily basis. Each grade level can earn up to 10 points per day. Those grade levels with two recesses can earn up to 5 points per recess. Each kindergarten session (am/pm) can earn up to 5 points. At the end of each day, Mrs. Spear will announce how many points each grade level has donated to the school fund. When enough points are gathered, new playground equipment will be purchased for the whole school to use.