

EARLS COURT PROJECT

Playgrounds for the Future

SESSION ONE:

Introduction to regeneration project

Geography | Key Stage 2 | Duration: 2 hours

Objectives

- To become familiar with the local area; including landmarks, transport links and open spaces
- To use aerial photographs
- To find out about the future vision of the area
- To think critically about the masterplan of the local area

Introduction:

- Show a large google map and aerial view of the local area to the class and ask the children to point out the places they know already
- Children, in pairs, identify features on an A4 aerial photograph and including roads, tube stations, open spaces and landmark buildings that they may already know.
- The children label each feature that they recognise
- Children briefly feedback about local landmarks they found
- Go through all the local features together again on the whiteboard

Main:

- Show a powerpoint of the future vision for the local area or visit the website of the developers and discuss the changes that are planned to take place.
- In groups of 3 or 4, children can examine a large sized masterplan and provide their feedback using post-it notes. They can include questions and concerns they have about the future changes.

Plenary:

- If time, some of the children can read out some of their comments about the masterplan

Resources

- Powerpoint of masterplan
- Large aerial map
- A4 aerial maps

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SESSION TWO:

What makes a good play area?

Citizenship | Key Stage 2 | Duration: 1.5 hours

Objectives

- To find out about different types of play and why it is important to children
- To think about and decide what play features are the most interesting and fun

Introduction

- Show a powerpoint presentation about different types of play (info from Play England website) Active play, role play, imaginative play, communication play etc.
- As a class discuss the types of play that children enjoy best and where they do it
- Why is play important to children? Briefly discuss in a pair then report back.

Main

- Ask children what are their favourite things to do in a playground?
- Give them some printed sheets of lots of different play features including traditional types eg. slides, swings, see- saws, tunnels, balance beams, bike tracks and natural features fallen logs, water, sand and ask them to choose between 8-10 of their favourite ones. Ask them to remember all the different types of play while they do it.
- Children can cut out their favourite play features and stick them onto a picture they have drawn of an empty playground

Plenary

- A few of the children can show their playground and say why they chose particular features.

Resources

- Powerpoint of types of play or look at play england website www.playengland.org.uk/
- Small printed photographs of play equipment
- Scissors and glue

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SESSION THREE:

Visit to inspirational playground

Citizenship | Key Stage 2 | Duration: 2 hours

Objectives

- To experience an inspirational playground and assess its value

Introduction

- To prepare for the visit: talk about traveling to the playground and expectations of good behaviour and other practicalities

Main: Making Community Maps

- At the playground children can play freely for half an hour or so
- Gather the children together. Ask them to stand by their favourite feature in the playground. (If the playground is too big -limit the area) Then do some counting to find out what ones they like best.
- Give the children some cameras to take photos of themselves indicating things that they like, don't like or think are okay (thumbs up, thumbs down!)

Resources

- Small cameras

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SESSION FOUR:

Meet the Professionals

Citizenship | Key Stage 2 | Duration: 1.5 hours

Objectives

- To discover more about the plans for new housing and green spaces
- To meet professionals who are working in the field of urban redevelopment and playground design and find out more about the issues involved and their own jobs

Introduction

- Introduce the professionals to the class
- Suitable professionals to invite to talk with the class include: community liaison people, architects, building surveyors, urban planners, developers, playground professionals
- Show powerpoint of images of last session's visit to the playground
- Two of the children briefly talk about the visit to the visitors
- Brief powerpoint presentation on the plans for the new development to remind the children

Main

- Split the class into 3 or 4 groups so that each group has a visitor to work with. The children show their work and talk in turn about what they have learned so far on the project.
- Adults can ask children questions about what work the children have done so far
- Children can ask adults some pre-prepared questions about the new development and about their jobs
- The main points of the discussion can be recorded by a few children in each group.
- After twenty minutes or so of discussion, one or two children from each group can share what they learned about the new development and their adult's job with the rest of the class

Resources

- Powerpoint about the future plans, including photos from last visit or housing developers website
- Some pre-prepared questions for each visitor
- Notepaper and pens
- Some examples of children's project work so far

NB If there are not enough professionals visiting for group work to take place this class could be structured as a 'question and answer' session instead

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SESSION FIVE:

Experiencing Natural Play

Art/Design | Key Stage 2 | Duration: 2 hours

Objectives

- To learn some new environmental games
- To experience play in a more natural setting

Introduction

- Talk to the children about expectations regarding behaviour on the visit
- At the park/wood/open space, remind the children about imaginative play and creative play and ask what sorts of games they could place in a space like this

Main

- Split the class into 3 or 4 groups so that each group has an adult to work with.

Activity One - Nature pictures

children collect leaves, stones, bark, fallen flowers and twigs and each group works as a team to make a piece of environmental art that can be viewed by the whole class

Activity Two - Den building (woodland)

In groups, using fallen branches, leaves and twigs, children build their own den for their group. The class can vote on the best and strongest one. If there are no fallen branches that can be used, lots of old sheets and string can be brought along for den making as long as there are trees to tie them to. (Close supervision required)

Whole Class Games

Bat and Moth (see Seagrave Road Case study 5)

Tree Game

This is a fun nature activity which will help to develop your sense of touch and smell. Each player chooses a partner. One partner is blindfolded with a bandana or any other handy blindfold.

The seeing partner carefully leads the blind partner to a tree. The blind person then feels the tree with his or her hands. How does it feel? Rough? Smooth? Big? Small? Ridges? Holes? S/he tries to learn as much as they can about that tree with sense of touch. Then smell the tree. Now lead the blind person back to the starting spot. Take off the blindfold. The goal in this nature activity is to find the tree. Use your sense of direction, sense of touch, and sense of smell. Once found, reverse roles and let the other partner be blindfolded.

Resources

- Old sheets, towels and rope or string for den making
- Blind folds for games

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SESSION SIX:

Planning our playgrounds

Art/Design | Key Stage 2 | Duration: 1.5 hours

Objectives

- To decide which play features we would like to see in our ideal playground
- To design our own ideal playground for the new housing development
- To practice planning and drawing skills

Introduction

- Powerpoint presentation on what makes a good playground plus images from the project so far, including visits
- Brief Discussion: What sorts of things do we think should go in our playgrounds now?
- Drawing a plan: use a large image of a playground plan to show how the children can represent features like trees, equipment, water, sand, paths.
- Remind the children that whatever they draw in 2D will need to be made into 3D models next time so keep it simple!

Main

- Children can begin to plan out their own individual ideal playground onto a sheet of A4 or A3.
- When they are happy with their drawings they can use some colour on them.

Plenary

- If time allows, some of the children can show their plan to the rest of the class
- Ask children to think of what recycled items they can bring in next week to make their models with and what they could be used for eg. bottle tops, small boxes, jam jar lids etc.

Resources

- Powerpoint images of playgrounds
- A3 paper
- coloured pencils

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SESSION SEVEN:

Creating our ideal playground models

Art/Design | Key Stage 2 | Duration: 2 hours

Objectives

- To design our ideal playground that we would like to see in the new Earls Court
- To use recycled and arty bits and pieces to create the models

Introduction

- If possible, show a previously made model and talk through what you used to make it
- Show the materials available and discuss with the class the different things that they could make with them
- Show how best to attach different materials to each other and make them stand up eg. by glue or plasticene
- Organise children to take a selection of different materials each to start their models

Main

- Using a piece of foam board, children can begin to plan out their own models, referring to the drawings they made last week, using a variety of materials.
- Once they are sure they know where each feature will go, they can begin to make the main features of the community garden eg. shed, path, pond, trees
- Once the structures are all in place and glued in, children can put down the surfaces of their models eg. a lawn or green felt and add final details

Plenary

- If time, some of the children can read out some of their comments about the masterplan

There may need to be one more session of model making before the exhibition in order to complete all the models to a good standard

Resources

- PVA glue/ glue gun and glue sticks
- A selection of recycled and arty resources eg. bottle tops, lids, green felt, lolly sticks, coloured stones, pipe cleaners, straws, small cardboard boxes, coloured paper, tissue paper, polystyrene packaging, bubble wrap, glass beads, cocktail umbrellas, fabric, wool, twigs to make trees, string, modeling clay or plasticene
- Children's plans of their playgrounds

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SESSION EIGHT:

Community Exhibition

Citizenship | Key Stage 2 | Duration: 2 hours

Objectives

- To meet professionals and members of the local community to informally discuss the regeneration project
- To exhibit the work that has taken place to the whole class, the school community, local residents and professionals

Introduction

- Explain to the children that we will be meeting members of the public and professionals from the project area.
- These could include architects, urban planners, community liaison team from developers, local residents and community group representatives
- Ask the children to have some questions ready and to have something to say about the project work they have done. Questions can be prepared beforehand.

Main

- Introduce the adults to the children and make sure everyone has a name label
- Children sit with an adult in groups of 6-8
- Children take it in turns to show and talk about their models
- Children ask questions of the adults, about their interest in the project or their job
- After twenty minutes, two children give a short presentation about the project to the whole gathering, using pictures on display boards if possible
- Refreshments available and informal conversation
- Group photos

Resources

- Children's models
- Display boards with children's work
- Refreshments