

Appendices

Playground Reporter Exercise

(Facilitator Guide)

Objective: This exercise uses Primary 7 students to gather information about how and where their younger classmates play. Children have intimate knowledge about their physical space that adults do not. In designing a playground, it is important to utilize this knowledge. However, young children have not yet developed skills for self-reflection and struggle with accurately reporting how and where they play.

As the oldest students at the primary school, Primary 7 children walk the line between child and adult. They have spent many years using the play space of their school during different developmental stages and are young enough to have clear memories of play throughout their childhood. They are also mature enough to be able to accurately reflect on and describe these memories. Unlike adults, younger children do not yet see them as authority figures and are more likely to share honestly with them. The Playground Reporter Exercise gives older students responsibility in assisting in the design of a playground for their younger classmates.

Participants: P.7Class (12-14 yrs.)

Time: Half-FullDay

Materials:

- + Chalkboard
- + Paper
- + Printout of "Playground Reporter Notes" for each student
- + Sign for each class at school (P.1, P.2, P.3, etc.)

Introduction

Good morning! My name is _____ and I am visiting you today from _____. Our group builds playgrounds at schools just like yours. Who can tell me what a playground is?

A playground is a space to play in, a playground has swings and slides, a playground is a place for children, etc.

Very soon, some workers will be coming to your school to build a new playground. Before we begin, the playground designers, parents, and teachers need the help of the P.7 class in designing a good playground for this school. As the oldest students in the school, we know that the P.7 class has been playing at this school for a long time and has important knowledge about how and where kids like to play. Can you help us?

Playground Reporter Training

Today you have a special assignment. You have all been appointed as “Playground Reporters.” Who can tell me what a reporter is?

A reporter works for a news station, a newspaper. A reporter tells the news, etc.

How does the reporter get their information?

From watching, from asking sources, from reading, etc.

A reporter gathers information from many sources and describes on what they've learned. That's what we'll be doing today. This is your reporter assignment:

Write on blackboard *“How and where do the children at _____ like to play?”*

To report on this question, we need to divide into groups for each class at the school.

Divide students into small groups for each grade at the school. Let students pick if they desire. Give each group a sign with their assigned grade.

The class you have been assigned to is the group of children you will be reporting on. Do you remember when you were in P.____? The way we play changes as we grow up. Can you remember how you liked to play when you were in P.____?

Let class tell a few stories about how they used to play.

Today at break-time, we'll be taking notes about how and where the kids in your grade like to play. You can watch them play and ask them questions.

Hand out “Playground Reporter Worksheet.” Read through questions.

On the back of your sheet, you can draw a map of your school compound. When you are watching the children in your class play during break-time, mark on your map where the children like to play best.

Another way we will get information is by letting the children tell us how and where they like to play. The children in each class will do this by drawing pictures of how they like to play.

Once you have gathered all your information, you will be presenting what you've learned to the teachers. Then together you will get to pick some playground elements you think the children at your school will like best. Are you ready?

Take one group at a time to each school classroom. Explain that we will be building a playground soon and we want to know how they like to play. Distribute paper and ask kids to draw a picture of how they like to play best. The other playground reporter groups can remain in their class to draw their compound maps. Have the P.7 teacher help you take student groups to each class to save on time.

When all classrooms have been visited, reporter groups can review the drawings and pick 2 they would like to present to the teachers.

Remind reporters of their break-time assignment before leaving. During break-time, let the reporters do their work! Check in with groups to make sure they are on task. After break-time, meet with class briefly to help them prepare their reports.

Now, it is time to prepare your report for the teachers. From the information you gathered, each group must make a report.

Have groups copy these lines and write brief answers:

Children in P.__ like to play by...

The spaces on the compound children in P.__ play on most are...

A good playground for the P.__ children would include...

Each group picks one representative who will give their class "report" (read their summary and describe two drawings.) In the afternoon, the P.7 class joins with the teachers to give reports and pick out their elements on behalf of the class they reported on.

Every Reporter gets a sweet at the end to thank them for their hard work!

Playground Reporter

Name:

School:

Assigned Class:

What do you see the kids you are observing doing during break-time?



What kinds of materials or elements do they play with?

Do you see them pretending or creating stories? What are they pretending?

Are the boys and girls playing different games or in different places?

Where on the compound do the kids spend time during break-time?

On the map of the compound you have drawn on the back, mark some of the places you saw the kids playing most.

Sample Budgets

Sample of a construction budget from a playground project in Central Thailand completed by Peace Corps Volunteer Cameron

Miller. Exchange rate: 32 Baht / US\$1

| Item/Description | Unit | Unit Price | Total Cost | | FoT Funding | | Community Contribution | |
|---|------|------------|------------|----------|-------------|----------|------------------------|---------|
| | | Thai Baht | Thai Baht | \$USD | Baht | \$USD | Thai Baht | in-kind |
| Labour* | 100 | 100 | 10,000 | \$312.50 | 0 | \$0.00 | 6,000 | 4,000 |
| Food* | 300 | 30 | 9,000 | \$281.25 | 0 | \$0.00 | 4,500 | 4,500 |
| Used Tires | 100 | 50 | 5,000 | \$156.25 | 2,500 | \$78.13 | 0 | 2,500 |
| Steel | 1 | 8,200 | 8,200 | \$256.25 | 6,080 | \$190.00 | 0 | 2,120 |
| Gas (transportation) | 1 | 1,000 | 1,000 | \$31.25 | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | 1,000 |
| Saw | 1 | 1,000 | 1,000 | \$31.25 | 0 | \$0.00 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Roof Materials | 1 | 3,000 | 3,000 | \$93.75 | 2,000 | \$62.50 | 500 | 500 |
| Nails, Hammer, Brushes, Bolts, & Other Construction Materials | 1 | 6,000 | 6,000 | \$187.50 | 2,000 | \$62.50 | 1,000 | 3,000 |
| Paint (buckets) | 12 | 365 | 4,380 | \$136.88 | 3,000 | \$93.75 | 0 | 1,380 |
| Sand | 2 | 2,000 | 4,000 | \$125.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 3,000 | 1,000 |
| Playground Slide | 2 | 2,000 | 4,000 | \$125.00 | 2,000 | \$62.50 | 2,000 | 0 |
| Rope and chain | 5 | 200 | 1,000 | \$31.25 | 1000 | \$31.25 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Budget | | | 56,580 | | 18,580 | \$580.63 | 18,000 | 20,000 |
| Percentages | | | | 100% | 33% | | 32% | 35% |
| Total used from FoT | | | | | 18,580 | \$580.63 | | |

* 10 community workers worked on the playground for an estimated 10 days, 3 meals per day.

Below is an example of a material price list gathered in Peru to work out what could be built with the NGO's budget.

| Name | Description | Dimensions | | Amount needed | | Unit Prices | Total S/. (local prices by amount) | Total US\$ (local prices by amount) |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | | Metric | | | |
| Wood Logs | Eucalyptus Wood | 4m long x 4" diameter | 4m long x 6" diameter | 18 | 18 | 40.00 | 180.00 | \$64.00 |
| Wood Logs | Eucalyptus Wood | 4m long x 4" diameter | 2m long x 5" diameter | 20 | 20 | 40.00 | 200.00 | \$72.00 |
| Wood Logs | Eucalyptus Wood | 4m long x 4" diameter | 2m long x 4" diameter | 40 | 40 | 40.00 | 400.00 | \$143.00 |
| Wood Logs | Eucalyptus Wood | 4m long x 4" diameter | 2m long x 3" diameter | 30 | 30 | 40.00 | 300.00 | \$107.00 |
| Bamboo | Poles | 4m long x 4" diameter | 2" diameter | 35 | 35 | 40.00 | 350.00 | \$125.00 |
| Roofing Materials | Leaf for roof; corrugated panels; something waterproof | Calamina ondulada 1.83x.85 | | 20 | 20 | 11.00 | 220.00 | \$79.00 |
| Paint | Oil based enamel paint | Esmalte Tekno sintetico/ galon | | 30 litres | 8 gallons | 61.50 | 492.00 | \$176.00 |
| Metal Primer | Needed for all metal parts (usually in red colour) | Esmalte Tekno epoxica negra/galon | | 4 litres | 1 gallon | 137.00 | 137.00 | \$49.00 |
| Paint Thinner | Also called Mineral Spirits | Thinner TKD Tekno/galon | | 4 litres | 1 gallon | 32.50 | 32.50 | \$12.00 |
| Turpentine | | Teknodur Parafinico/ galon | | 4 litres | 1 gallon | 124.00 | 124.00 | \$44.00 |
| Nails 5" | | clavos de 3"/kg | 5" long | 22 pounds | 10kg | 6.03 | 60.30 | \$22.00 |
| Nails 4" | | clavos de 4"/kg | 4" long | 22 pounds | 10kg | 6.03 | 60.30 | \$22.00 |
| Nails 3" | | clavos de 3"/kg | 3" long | 11 pounds | 5kg | 5.21 | 26.05 | \$9.00 |
| Screws | | | | 4.5 pounds | 2kg | 15.00 | 30.00 | \$11.00 |
| Cement | Cemento Portland tipo I / bolsa | | | 5 bags | 5 bags | 13.55 | 67.75 | \$24.00 |
| Sand | | Arena gruesa/m ³ | | 10 bags | 4 cube | 34.50 | 138.00 | \$49.00 |