

# PEACEFUL PLAYGROUNDS

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EVERY STUDENT DESERVES A SAFE SPACE TO PLAY!

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## MISSION

The mission of the Peaceful Playgrounds Foundation is to create a safe play environment, support healthy active kids, and advocate for recess and free play. We believe the benefits of free play are best accomplished by enhancing the play environment and allowing children lots of choices.

## CREED

Conflict Resolution, **Rules**,  
Equipment, **Expectations**, **Design**

**Conflict Resolution:** There are only three ways we solve conflicts on a Peaceful Playground. We remember them as “walk, talk or rock”. The first option is to walk away and find a new game to play. If that doesn’t work, we try to talk it out. If we can’t come to a conclusion in 30 seconds or less, we play rock paper scissors. This has already made a huge difference on the playground because students take more responsibility over their problem solving.

**Rules:** All students learn the same rules to the same games, so that we avoid further conflict and allow for more play time. There are no exceptions to rules, so we do not believe in “re-dos.” We find that the students are receptive to this because if we spend all of recess redo-ing the same play, the same few children get to continue playing while others have to wait.



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**Equipment:** This one is simple. By having plenty of equipment available, we encourage more widespread participation, less boredom, and by default, less conflict.

**Expectations:** By implementing this philosophy school-wide among students and teachers, we create an environment of consistency which allows us to hold students accountable for their actions. This teaches them how to play an active role in their conflict-resolution and play experiences.

**Design:** By creating clear boundaries, no student has the opportunity to ask, “well, what do we do now?” With so many choices, children have fewer conflicts and spread more evenly on the playground. When they know that they will be getting their turn quickly, there are less arguments over rules.

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## HOW HAS IT WORKED FOR US?



### DECREASE IN HEAD INJURIES

Before this program, we had a total of 59 reported head injuries from balls or from falling to the ground during the year prior. During our first year of Peaceful Playgrounds, we had a total of 39 reported head injuries. This improvement gives us hope for a promising and safe future as well as pride in our students and staff for their cooperation and enthusiasm in embracing this program.

### MORE RESOURCES

Feel free to visit the Peaceful Playgrounds website to learn more about what they stand for, how other schools have embraced the program, and to read more testimonials.

[www.peacefulplaygrounds.com](http://www.peacefulplaygrounds.com)

### WHAT KINDS OF GAMES ARE AVAILABLE?

Before implementing Peaceful Playgrounds, we had kickball, soccer, basketball and foursquare available to our students--and whatever other games they made up. So far with Peaceful Playgrounds, we have learned 21 new games including Longball, Four Corners, Crossover, Touchdown, Sideline Soccer, Jollyball, Bounceball, Pickle, Four Square, Crows and Cranes, Man from Mars and more. There are even more games to learn, but these are some of the favorites.

You may recognize some of those games and that is because Peaceful Playgrounds does not exclusively include original games, but instead has taken classic playground favorites and either accepted them due to already having safe and inclusive rules, or slightly adapted them to include more players, which allows for more fun and more playtime for all students!

