

Play Nice! Newsletter

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School Talk

Each year in the United States, emergency departments treat more than 200,000 children ages 14 and younger for playground-related injuries (Tinsworth 2001).

Effects of Peaceful Playgrounds on Injury Reduction

A case study examined the effects of the Peaceful Playgrounds Program on injury reduction (Bossenmeyer, M. & Owens, K. 2004). The six-year longitudinal study evaluated how the adoption of and operation of the Peaceful Playgrounds Program (PPP) significantly reduced playground injuries. The site for the study was a K-5 elementary school in Murrieta, CA. The PPP designed and implemented at Curran Elementary significantly reduced injuries while at the same time dramatically reduced the incidences of rule infractions and misbehavior. The implementation of PPP and the ongoing commitment to continued staff development in the PPP principles led to both the significant results of the study and the

the school receiving the prestigious Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association in the category of School Safety.

To test the hypothesis that the PPP reduces injury rates, a statistical test was performed on the sample data. The injury data were organized into proportions of the total number of children that were injured during three years prior to program implementation (average proportion of population injured between 1992-1994 = 0.05, n=1,560) and during the three years post implementation (average proportion of population injured between 1995 and 1997 = 0.01 m=3,083).

Proportion of Students Injured and Average Enrollment Pre/Post Intervention

Year	Proportion Injured	Average Enrollment
1992-1994	0.05	820
1995-1997	0.01	1,027

For more suggestions on reducing injuries go to: www.peacefulplaygrounds.com
Complete study posted at: <http://www.peacefulplaygrounds.com/research.htm>

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