

Peaceful Playgrounds™ newsletter

play nice!

Not “it”. Boston School Bans Tag

Is tag really bad? TV stations, newspapers and website blogs across the country picked up the small 4 paragraph story on the Boston School banning tag at an elementary school last week.

As a former elementary school principal, I can relate to the “banning” epidemic. When my office filled with 10 kids on discipline issues before school started each morning I too banned before school recess. But I quickly learned that the decision was a poor one. Too often we resort to extremes in times of frustration. The real problem was untrained playground supervisors, lack of playground rules, a few children arriving before supervisors were assigned and not enough organized activities for children to play, etc.

Some helpful hints to improving your playground - Make sure students have enough activity choices and equipment to participate in games. It helps to be proactive and communicate both playground rules and rationale to the community at the beginning of the school year. Reactive responses are sometimes necessary but put us on the defense.

Finally, the issue is not so much “is tag bad”, as “is your playground good”? Schools that devote time to improving their playground reap many rewards including: fewer playground conflicts, decrease in bullying, fewer injuries and more active children.

For more information on improving your school playground – Visit our website at www.peacefulplaygrounds.com/benefits.htm Or write Melinda@peacefulplaygrounds.com

Willing to Share a Playground Success Story?

Each month we highlight a school that has successfully implemented Peaceful Playgrounds. Check out Central Elem at: <http://www.peacefulplaygrounds.com/index.htm/>

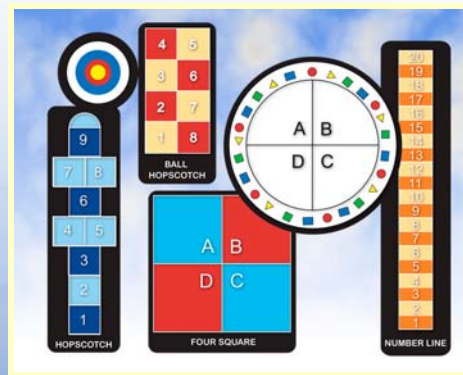
We are now accepting electronic pictures, stories, and articles on your Peaceful Playgrounds Program. Email to: Melinda@peacefulplaygrounds.com

Physical Education and Playground Resources



- [Peaceful Playgrounds](#)
- [WE Count Walking Program](#)
- [Fundamental Movement Training](#)
- [Equipment Packs](#)
- [Roll Out Stencil Sets](#)
- [PE & Recess](#)
- [Paint Machine](#)
- [US Map Stencil](#)
- [Pedometers](#)

**Instructional Videos
Coming Soon!**



Playground Markings and National Obesity Prevention Physical Activity Strategies

Ireland

'Playground Markings' is a wonderful, practical initiative which aims to encourage children to participate in games in the school playground. Using traditional games, such as hopscotch, the idea is to incorporate physical activity in children's daily routines. Sean Power TD, Minister of State for the Department of Health and Children. Opening Address: All Ireland Conference: www.healthpromotion.ie/pdf/speech_sean_power.pdf

United States

Inexpensive ways to enhance school breaks and recess periods to increase opportunities for physical activity have also been examined, including providing game equipment such as balls and painting school playground areas with markings for games (Jago and Baranowski, 2004). fermat.nap.edu/books/0309091969/html/303.html

England

Sporting Playgrounds is supported by the Department of Education and Skills (DfES) and is aimed at primary schools to improve the physical environment within playgrounds and increase play, physical activity and general health of all pupils. Liverpool schools have been awarded \$400,000 to be invested in 20 primary schools. The program includes Playground Marking, Training and Equipment. www.liverpool.gov.uk/Images/tcm21-31090.pdf

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