



Top Ten Simple Ways to Involve Children in Planning

*Ideas from Bridget Dickerson, former PTA president at
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10. Tell children to get the word out about the playground project, particularly to their families and neighbors. If yours is the first safe outdoor facility of its kind, get them excited about the playground's social aspect-picnicking outdoors on weekends, hosting neighborhood parties, playing sports, etc. This may be a new concept!
9. Have classrooms collect money from their parents, their weekly allowance, their lemonade stands...every penny counts! The classroom that collects the most money wins exclusive rights to play on the playground during its inaugural day.
8. When putting out a neighborhood or PTA newsletter, include photos of local children as well as quotes from them about the importance of the playspace.
7. Whenever sponsors, media, or special guests stop by the site, have children make welcome and thank-you banners. Add new pictures and signatures to them as the project progresses.
6. When you approach neighborhood associations or similar citizen organizations for donations, bring children along. Let them explain why they need a new playspace; you'll be amazed by how articulate they can be.
5. Have children design your public fundraising thermometer(s), and select classroom representatives to fill them in as you raise money.
4. If you're applying for a grant that requires photos, drawings, or background information, enlist children's help in gathering these materials.
3. Having trouble with low attendance at planning meetings? Bring children's dance troupes, bands and choruses to perform-at the very least, their parents will show up!
2. You'll need to know the exact dimensions of your playground site, so ask a school math teacher to bring his or her students out to make measurements. Incorporate it into their school curriculum for a double lesson in math and community organizing!
1. Set aside a special side project just for children, whether it's making birdhouses, planting a butterfly garden, or pressing their handprints into stepping stones. Make it special!