

It Starts with a Playground

Creative story writing is a great way to practice language skills and get kids excited about their upcoming playground!

Age Appropriateness:

- 5 and up

Key Topics:

- Creative Writing

Skills:

- Writing
- Storytelling
- Creativity

Materials:

- Paper,
- Pencils/pens/crayons

Action Time:

- 1-2 hours

Resources:

<http://pbskids.org/arthur/parentsteachers/lesson/storywriting/>

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/story-starters/>

<http://www.superteacherworksheets.com/journal-prompts.html>

<http://www.kidsplayandcreate.com/50-positive-creative-writing-topics-for-kids/>

OBJECTIVES

- To practice creative writing and storytelling skills and allow kids to get excited for their playground!



Discussion

This is a great exercise that helps youth with their writing skills. “It Starts with a Playground” is their prompt. Have a discussion with the youth about the elements of a story. What are the key components of a story? Discuss main idea, characters, setting, and plot. Next, read a short story and identify all of these components. Run a short brainstorming activity with the youth before they start writing. Have them come up with some sample ideas and images that they want to see in their stories. Brainstorming can come in many different forms...be creative and have fun!!!

Action

- The KaBOOM! tagline is “It starts with a playground.” Each will write his or her own story that starts at a playground.
- Have youth brainstorm ideas and use their own method of mapping out their story.
- Each participant writes and illustrates a story and shares it with the group.

Reflection

- Did story mapping help you create your story? What are all the different characters that the group used? Were there any common main ideas?
- Display the stories and allow the youth to draw illustrations.