

CHESSBOARD TABLETOP



INSTRUCTIONS:

Number of Participants:

3-4 people per tabletop

Materials:

1 picnic table, 1 piece of plywood as big as your table, 9d nails, hammer, 2 pints outdoor paint (any color), paintbrushes, rulers, pencils, painter's tape (optional)

Description:

A chessboard table is an easy way to update your existing picnic tables and encourage community members of all ages to gather in the park to have fun. For more visual step-by-step instructions, including diagrams of how to cut the wood and assemble this bench, download the full PDF instructions to accompany this card at playday.kaboom.org.

Steps:

First, you will draw out the chessboards directly on the plywood using pencils and rulers (or a similar straight-edge). It's best to draw out two chessboards.

Next, paint the chessboards in two alternating colors (see photo). Before you begin, either write in each square with a pencil what color it will be, or put a dab of that paint color inside the square. It's easier to get the squares mixed up than you'd think, especially with more than one painter!

You may decide to use painter's tape along the edges of the squares, or to paint them by hand. Either way, be sure to let the first color squares dry completely before moving on to the next.

If time (and paint supply) allows, you may decide to paint the area around the chessboards as well. Feel free to add your own artistic expression to the tables!

Attach your chessboard to the picnic table, using the hammer & nails.



Play matters

Parents indicate that a safe location (away from crime) is the most important factor for outdoor public play spaces.

Take action

Encouraging adults to hang out and enjoy the playground while their kids are there makes it a safer place for everyone to play.