

Let's build a playground

培生  
英语阅读

# 让我们建个 游乐场吧

*Let's Build a Playground*

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Let's Build a  
**PLAYGROUND**



**BY EDWARD MYERS**

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# Contents

## Chapter 1

Let's Build a Playground! ..... page 5

## Chapter 2

Design Day ..... page 9

## Chapter 3

Time to Get Ready ..... page 15

## Chapter 4

Kids Get Ready, Too! ..... page 19

## Chapter 5

How Many Boards Make  
a Playground?..... page 25

## Chapter 6


Construction Begins ..... page 31

## Chapter 7

A Playground at Last! ..... page 39

Exercises ..... page 48

Index ..... page 53



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at Robert Leathers & Associates of Ithaca, New York,  
whose help was invaluable in creating this book.*

## Chapter 1

# LET'S BUILD A PLAYGROUND!

"There's no place to play!" Many children say those words. There may be only an empty **lot**, a small field, or a **concrete** square where children can play games and bounce balls. If there is a playground in a park or a schoolyard, it may have just a slide and a couple of swings. In some places, there really is no place to play.

lot

A. fate

B. share

C. land

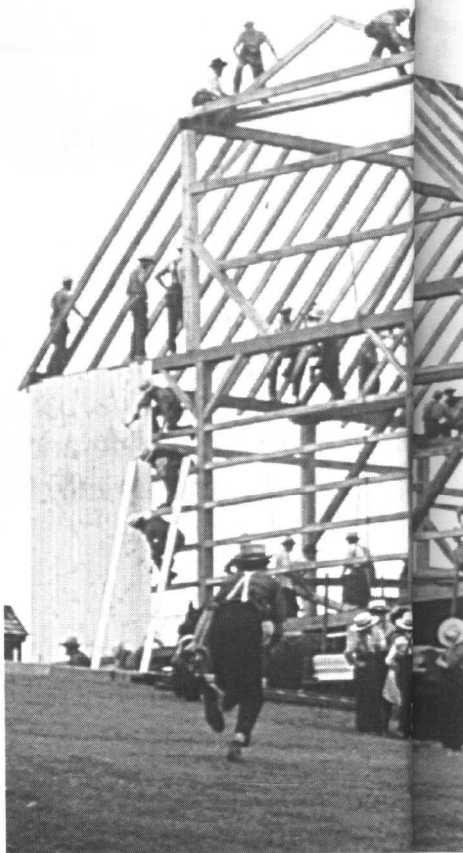
*Many children have nowhere to play.*

Key: C



So the kids and the parents in a community decide it's time for a new playground. But a new playground costs a lot of money. Even a small one might cost \$25,000. A really big playground might cost almost half a million dollars. How can a town afford such a **costly** project? They can do it if they make the playground a community project and build it themselves.

In the past, Americans often used to work this way. Farmers would help to build a neighbor's **barn** or harvest another family's crops. Americans are still willing to help each other when disaster strikes, such as a hurricane or a tornado. But community projects aren't as common as they used to be.





*Traditional barn raising*

When a community decides it wants a new playground, it must first answer some important questions.

- Where will we build the playground?
- What kind of a playground do we want?
- How do we build it?



*A community parade for a playground project*

Lots of people are needed to help plan and organize. Money must be collected, too, to pay for the playground. Many more people are needed to help with the building.

Building a playground is not an easy job. But many communities have done it. Let's find out how one **community** built a playground.

## **FUN FACTS**

In 1990 a group of people from all over the country formed the Community Built Association. They wanted to help communities start their own building projects in which everyone works together.



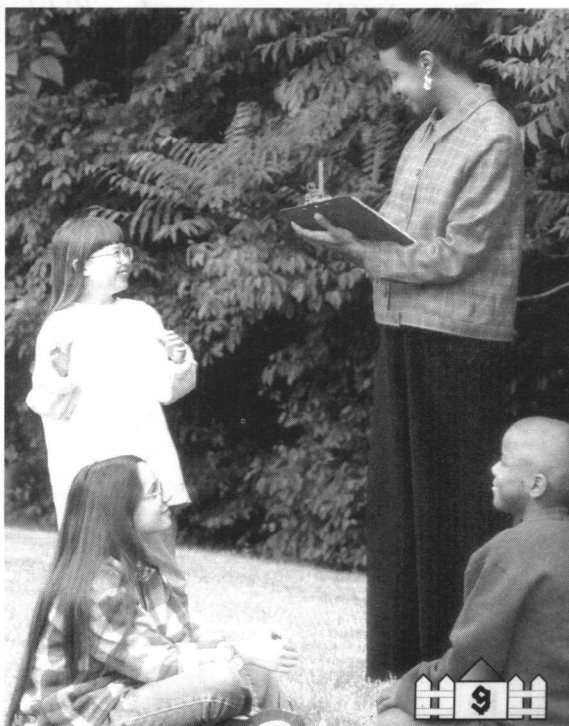
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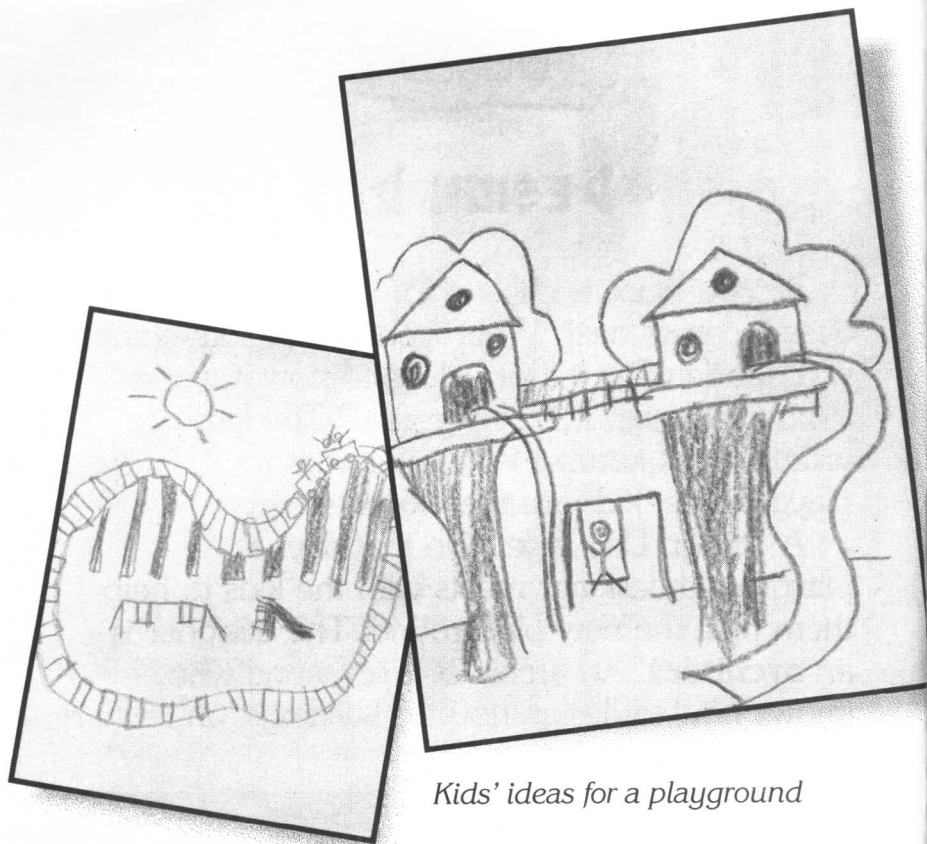
# DESIGN DAY

After a place is chosen for the playground, a design comes next. When you design something, you decide what it looks like and how it works. Who will design this playground? The kids who will use it, of course! When it comes to playgrounds, kids are the **experts**.

A Design Day is set. On that day, a playground designer meets with the kids to help them plan the new playground. The designer is an **architect**. An architect is someone who knows how to design houses, buildings, and other places where people live, work, and play.

*Children share  
playground ideas.*





*Kids' ideas for a playground*

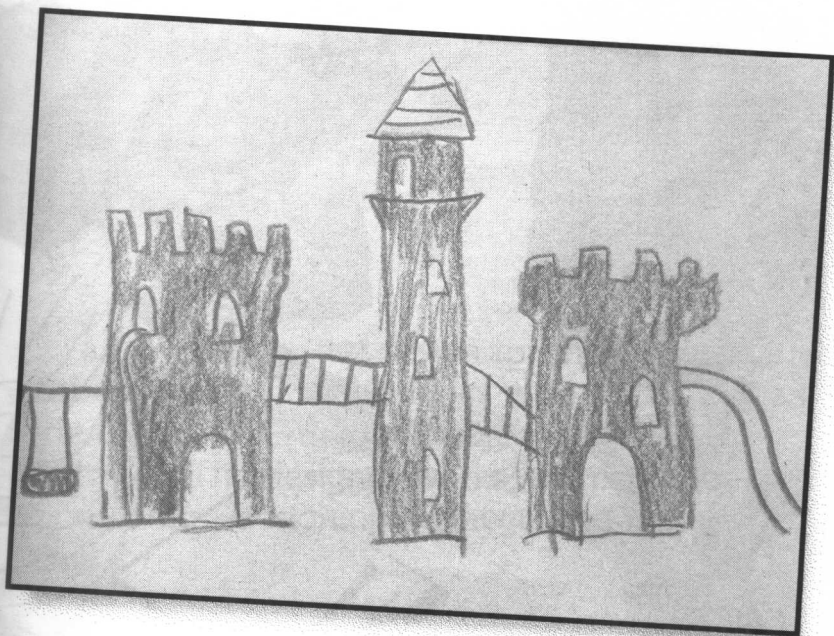
Every child who comes to the Design Day meeting will **get a chance to** say what he or she wants in the playground. If possible, every idea will become part of the playground.

The kids have **thought up** all sorts of great ideas for the playground. Many children want slides, swings, and bridges. Others ask for stairs, tunnels, ladders, rings, and sliding poles.



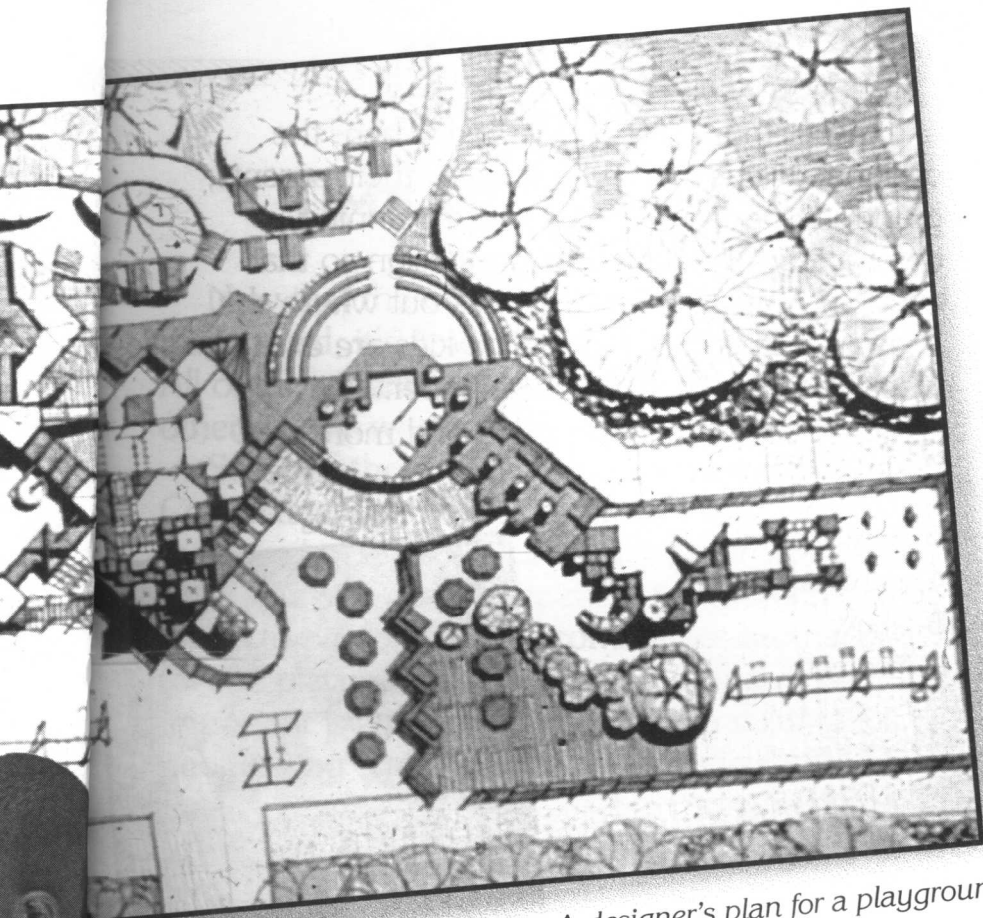
Some kids have special ideas. One child wants a tightrope. Another child wants a treehouse. Another wants a castle with tall towers, adding, "Connect the towers with a hanging **walkway**." Others suggest a clubhouse, a roller coaster, and a wooden dragon with a slide coming out of its mouth.

As the kids talk, the designer listens. She takes notes and makes sketches. Sometimes the kids give her **drawings** they have made of how they want the playground to look.



After she listens to the kids, the designer starts to work. She has a big piece of paper and some special pencils. While the kids watch, she starts to draw. The designer takes the kids' **list** of ideas and draws them **one by one** on the paper.





*A designer's plan for a playground*

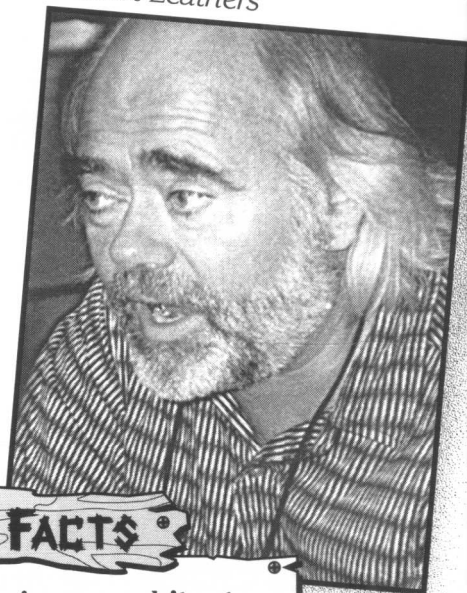
Little by little, the design for the playground **takes shape**. The designer makes sure that all the different parts of the playground will fit together. The designer works for many hours. Sometimes, designing a playground takes all day!

Finally, the design is finished. Then, the designer meets with the children, their parents, grandparents, teachers, and the planning committee. She **displays** her design so that everyone can see it. She points out where she has put all the kids' ideas. The kids are excited when they see their ideas on paper. The playground is becoming more and more real!

display

- A. explain
- B. show
- C. project

*Robert Leathers*



### **FUN FACTS**

Robert Leathers is an architect who loved to build big treehouses when he was young. Now he's the head of a company that helps to build community playgrounds.

Key: B

# TIME TO GET READY

Now that the community has a design for a playground, it's time for the adults to get to work. All of the parents, grandparents, teachers, and other people who want to help have a lot to do.

Some of them help by joining **committees**. Committees are groups of people who work together to plan a job or to solve a problem. Members of a committee meet to talk about what needs to be done. Many committees are needed for the playground project. One of the most important is a committee to sign up volunteers, or people who agree to work on the playground for free.

*Volunteers learn about the playground.*



*The food committee will  
feed many people.*

The materials committee works to find and buy materials. They call or visit local companies that sell **construction supplies**. They have to get boards, cement, nails, screws, paint, sandpaper, and other things. They ask the company owners to give some of the materials for free to help the playground project.

Another group gathers building tools. All kinds of tools are needed, from hammers and pliers to power saws. The group asks people to bring their tools. They also talk to companies who might donate tools.

The food committee members plan what they will feed all the workers on the days when the playground is being built. They may have to plan lunches and dinners for a hundred or more people for up to five days! That's a lot of food!