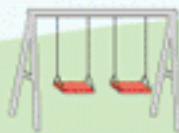
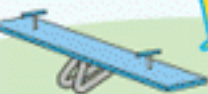




## Out & About at the

# Playground



These math activities are perfect for any playground environment, whether it's a paved schoolyard, an indoor gym, a rural field, or a modern park with the latest equipment. Pick and choose from what's available to you and adapt these ideas as desired. Then take your class out to play. It's time for math! All set? Let's go!



### Copy Me

**Skill:** copying and extending patterns

Here's a pleasing pattern game for the playground or indoors! To prepare, duplicate the pattern cards (page 11) onto tagboard to make a supply. Cut the cards apart; then laminate them for durability if desired. Gather students and show them a simple pattern made from the cards. Demonstrate the pattern; then repeat with students copying your movements.

When youngsters have the hang of it, encourage them to continue the pattern after the cards run out. Invite a volunteer to create a pattern for the rest of the group to copy. Continue in this manner until all interested volunteers have had a turn. To vary this activity, take students to the playground and have them find patterns in their play, such as swings moving back and forth and sliders moving up and down.

### Sort It Out

**Skill:** sorting by attributes

Here's a sorting activity that combines attributes with playground fun. Gather a chart tablet and marker; then take your students to the playground. Slowly give clues that describe a particular piece of equipment or an activity on your playground, such as "You can slide on this piece." Have students think of the activity as it's described. Then encourage each child to go to the activity described when she knows the answer. Continue to describe the activity until it's apparent to all students. Discuss and record the name of the activity and the clues that made it clear to the majority of students. For more challenge, describe the equipment or activities with more difficult attributes, such as color, shape, or material.

Slide



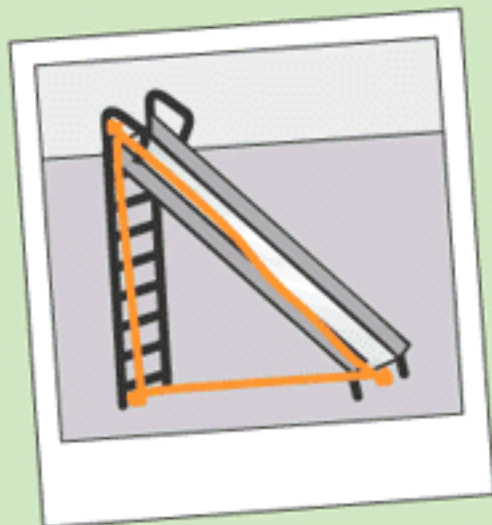
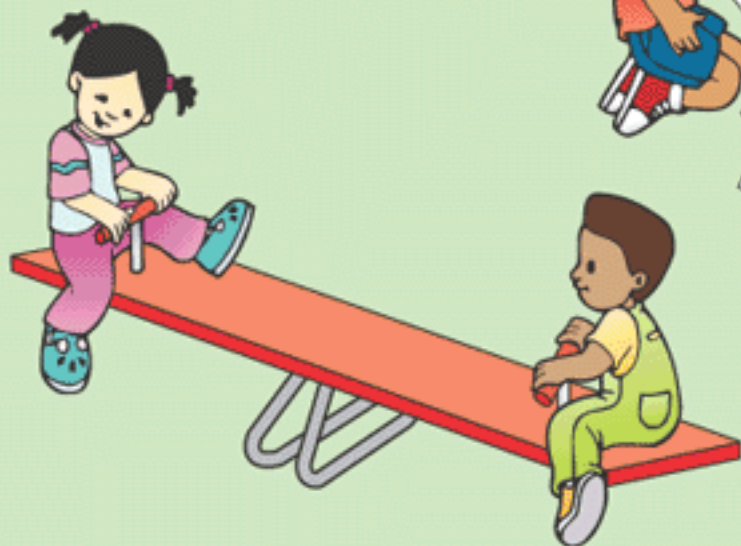
- You can slide on this piece.
- It has a ladder.
- One person can slide at a time.
- You sit on this and slide to the bottom.
- It's black and blue.



## Playground Photo Math

**Skills:** counting, sorting, comparing amounts

Picture the math possibilities in this activity! Take photos of your youngsters playing on the playground. Be sure to capture varying numbers of children in the photos. Include one photo of a piece of equipment with no children. If desired, mount the photos on index cards and laminate them for durability. During a small-group time, encourage students to count and compare the number of children pictured in each photo. Invite students to sort the pictures by number of children and use the phrases *more*, *equal*, and *fewer than* to describe them.



## Picture-Perfect Shapes

**Skills:** identifying shapes, sorting

Don't put away that camera yet! Use it to capture some playground shapes for ongoing learning. Obtain a supply of brightly colored sticky dots. Take youngsters to the playground and show them how to find a shape in the environment, such as a triangle in the slide. Demonstrate marking the shape with sticky dots. Next, divide your class into small groups and give each group a set of dots. Send each group to a different area of the playground to search for and mark shapes. Circulate among the groups confirming and photographing the found shapes. Gather students and have each group share the shapes it found. Later, photocopy sets of the pictures using a marker to enlarge the dots as needed and store them in a center. Encourage students in this center to use a crayon to trace the marked shapes on a copy.