



The Natural Playgrounds Company

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a r c h i t e c t

*Putting
The Fun
Back into
Playing
Naturally*

creative design
& supervision

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What Are Your Favorite Things To Do Outside?

Survey of 600 students, grades 1-4 * Compiled by The Natural Playgrounds Company

Being Quiet

Doing nothing/relaxing
Drawing (3)
Drawing nature
Drawing with chalk
Finding sticks/carving
Hammock/reading (2)
Playing cards outside
Playing with dolls
Rest on a bench
Resting
Sewing
Sidewalk chalk (2)
Sun bathing
Trading cards
Whittling

Building/inventing things

Build forts (6)
Building tree houses
Building something
Inventing
Carve wood-bow & arrows

Climbing

Climbing trees (12)
Climbing mountains (2)
Climbing anything (8)
Climbing rocks (3)
Climbing on net
Climb on rocks (2)
Hanging upside down

Exploring/Discovering

Exploring (2)
Exploring in woods
Finding sea shells (2)
Looking for bugs (2)
Looking for caterpillars
Looking for gypsy moths
Looking for painted turtles
Observing the neighborhood

Hiking/walking

Hiking (2)
Walk the dog
Walk on a trail (2)
Walking (3)
Jumping (2)
Jump in the leaves (2)
Jump off of things (2)
Jumping off rocks
Jump in woods
Jump rope
Jumping

Listening to music (1)

Playing With Nature

Camping
Catch helicopters from trees
Find sticks
Jump in a pile of leaves (2)
Mowing the lawn
Picking flowers
Play in woods
Play on the rocks
Playing in the woods
Playing in tree house
Relaxing in a park (Arcadia)
Rolling down the hill
Search for things in woods
Singing outside
Study nature by river
Sunning

Playing in the earth

Archeological digs
Build sand castle
Dig holes/Look for money
Dig tunnels underground
Digging for gold
Digging in the dirt (2)
Digging/playing in sand (4)
Gardening Planting flowers/ (3)
Picking raspberries

Playing with wildlife/animals

Catch frogs/tadpoles (3)
Chasing squirrels
Play with the dog (Hide and Seek, catch) (18)
Playing/fetching with cat (5)
Watching wildlife

Playing Around Water

Clean out the stream
Fishing (4)
Getting wet
Ice fishing
Play in water/creek/lake (8)
Play on the bridge
Play with the hose
Playing in the mud
Playing in the sprinkler
Stepping on rocks in the river
Swimming (6)

Playing in the winter (1)

Building a snowman (3)
Ice skating (4)
Jumping into snow
Make snow angels (2)
Playing in the snow (3)
Shaking the trees so the snow falls
Skiing (3)
Sledding (3)
Snow Tubing
Snowboarding (5)
Throwing snowballs at something (4)
Tubing (winter Sledding) (2)

Playing with a ball

Bouncing dodge ball
Kick a soccer ball (2)
Playing catch

Running

Chasing (2)
Freeze tag
Play in field (2)
Playing chase
Playing tag (11)
Racing/contest (4)
Run in the woods
Running/sprinting/jogging (16)
Skipping
Tag

Socializing

Going to friend's house
Playing with friends
Play with sister
Sitting/talking (4)
Talking with friends

Throwing

Throwing things
Throwing ball
Throwing snowballs
Throwing at target

Walking in the woods

Go in the woods
Hiking in the woods (4)
Playing in woods
Walking on my path

General Games

Adventure games
Ball tag
Boogy board
Camouflage/hiding (2)
Capture the flag (2)
Capture the flag (5)
Chalk games/hop scotch
Dodge ball
Fencing
Fly kites
Four squares
Freeze tag (4)
Graveyard game
Hide and go seek (7)
Home free
Hopscotch
Hula hooping (2)
Hunting for things (2)
Jump roping (4)
Kickball
Leap frog
Make up imaginary games
Play in clubhouse
Play school
Play tag (2)
Playing games (2)
Playing Star Wars
Playing Titanic
Pretend dog show

Pretend games (2)
Red rover
Rock tag
Sidewalk chalk
Skip it
Slip and slide
Street hockey
Throwing at a target

Playing on Equipment

Acrobatics

Chasing on jungle gym
Monkey bars (4)
Playing on playset
Playing on trolley
Seesaw
Sliding (2)
Swing (& tire swing) (19)

*** 103 students listed as their favorite things to do activities that would probably not be allowed on most playgrounds, such as archery, bike riding, mowing lawns, rafting, horse riding, swimming, and watching fireworks, so we did not include them in this list.**

**For more information on
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