

**Appendix A - TCDSB FDK Playground Standards - Additions and New Schools and Existing Schools as Conditions Permit**

Preferred Elements - Every FDK playground for a new school or FDK addition should have:

- 1) Security - fenced area directly accessible from FDK cubby area (access may be shared between 2 or more FDK rooms) – location should also facilitate parent/bus drop-off/pick-up into/from the area, including before and after regular hours for Before-and-After Child Care.
- 2) Area – minimum equivalent to total classroom area at 90 sq.m. each, i.e. 3 sq.m. per child, target Day Nurseries Act requirement of 5.6 sq.m. per child or more if possible.
- 3) Shade - provided by trees and/or structures such as building overhang/canopy, pergolas, awnings, etc. Building orientation and playground location should also consider shade in summer, sun in winter
- 4) Variety of surfaces - at least 2, preferably 3 or more – examples: asphalt, concrete, stone, bricks, mulch, granitic sand, grass (Duro lawn rubber matting may be used to reduce compaction), limestone screening, decking, log surfacing - Hard and soft surfaces configured to create pathways (see # 9)
- 5) Access to nature – may and usually will be included in #3 and #4, but if not, should not be forgotten as an element – should support children’s natural curiosity and inspire creativity
- 6) Seating – can be integrated with the building (such as extended window sills) or planters/sand play edging or stand alone such as tree stump rounds, flat-topped logs, benches, or combination; cedar post sand play edging can be used for seating and for balancing and jumping as well
- 7) Water – provide a hose bib for water play as well as tree/shrub watering
- 8) Storage - accessible from playground (or a vestibule) for outdoor play equipment, tools, etc.
- 9) Room to run and ride tricycles - create pathways as noted in # 4 above. Determine different types of pathways that will accommodate different forms of mobility, for example, looped paths, or a hierarchy of paths with multi-purpose dominant paths for and specialized subordinate paths (trike tracks, sensory trail, goat path)

Additional Elements - Subject to principals’, teachers’, parents’ input and budget:

- 1) Changes in topography (such as a “grassy knoll,” berm, compacted mulch mound for climbing, rolling and sliding in winter)
- 2) Sand play area – fairly large with granitic sand (if playground is shared with a child care, this will need a cover and may also need to be smaller for this reason)
- 3) Outdoor chalkboard or other type of wall/fence mounted surface for writing/drawing, etc.
- 4) Large clump shrubs where screening needed (for example from a parking lot) or for shade until trees mature
- 5) Planters for student use
- 6) “Corduroy bridge” (log surfacing - see # 4 above also)/ rumble strips
- 7) Logs for climbing and/or balancing, landscaped climbing features
- 8) Space for schools to add fixed elements such as playhouse, climbing structure, and movable elements such as planters, water table, outdoor musical instruments, etc. etc.
- 9) Hooks or other storage for backpacks for play after drop-off and before pick-up times (FDK teachers are now using these spaces to combine outdoor time at the beginning and end of the day to reduce the frequency of dressing/undressing children)
- 10) Pavement painting (for games, to add colour and or instructional purposes)

The above additional elements should not compromise Preferred Element # 9, room to run!

Note: Materials must be non-toxic and plants non-poisonous