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**UNIT:** Curriculum Planning

**LESSON:** Outdoor Play Area

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**COMPETENCIES:**

1. Identify appropriate equipment to be used in the outdoor play area.
  2. List safety rules associated with outdoor play.
  3. Define the correct space ratios and guidelines for outdoor play.
  4. Identify laws relating to safety and usefulness of the outdoor play area (fences, shelter, etc.)
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**OVERVIEW/SUMMARY:**

The outdoor play yard is as important as the indoor play area. This area provides students with a special place to develop large motor skills and other skills that are inappropriate inside the child care center.

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**MOTIVATOR:**

Get pictures of several pieces of outdoor play equipment. Show them to the students and play "The Price is Right". The second half of the game is to play, "The Purpose of This Piece of Equipment". Simply have the students identify what skills a particular piece of equipment would help develop.

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**LESSON OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:**

**OPTION 1--CDA I**

**LECTURE OR STUDENT READING:** Discuss the information, "Outdoor Play Areas" (or have the students read this information and answer the worksheet as an individualized unit).

**OPTION 2**

**OBSERVATION:** Have students complete an observation of an outdoor play area using the worksheet, "Outdoor Play Area Observation Sheet".

**OPTION 3**

**PLANNING AN OUTDOOR PLAY AREA:** Using the worksheet "Planning an Outdoor Play Area", have the students plan an outdoor play area. They must select equipment, place it appropriately, and provide for traffic areas. The teacher will need to provide catalogs of equipment for the students to reference.

**OPTION 4**

**TEXTBOOK READING:** Read the appropriate information from your classroom text regarding the outdoor play area.