

Free time with primary students

Topic

Free-time activities

Aims

- To help learners extend their vocabulary
- To develop learners' speaking and listening skills
- To develop learners' writing skills

Age/level

Primary
CEFR level A2

Time

60 minutes approximately

Materials

1. Flashcards: <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/flashcards/playground-flashcards>
2. Song: <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/songs/playing-the-playground>
3. Story: <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/no-dogs>
4. Game: <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/word-games/playground>
5. Your turn writing: <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/your-turn/free-time-activities>

Introduction

In this lesson children practise playground vocabulary, sing a song about the playground, listen to a story about a dog in the park and play an online game. They also practise speaking and writing about their free-time activities. The song and the story have activity sheets and answer sheets to download and print.

Procedure

1. Flashcards (10 mins)

- Print the playground flashcards. Hold up the 'swings' picture card and say *I like playing on the swings. Do you like the swings?* Tell the learners to put up their hand if they like playing on the swings. Do the same with the other picture cards.
- Now ask the learners to listen and repeat the playground words after you as you show them the cards. Spread out the picture and word cards face up on the floor. Ask for volunteers to match the pictures with the correct words.
- Now put all the picture and word cards face down on the floor. Invite learners to choose two cards. Can they find matching pairs?

2. Song (10–15 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the children to tell you playground activities in English (playing on the swings, playing football, etc.) and write them on the board. • Play the song and ask children to stand up each time they hear one of the activities on the board. Play the song a second time – this time the children follow the words and join in with just the last word of each line. • Finally, play the song again and encourage the children to sing along. Make sure you join in too! To make it even more fun you can make up actions (swinging, playing football, laughing, etc.) for the song as you all sing along. • Find an optional activity worksheet to download and print under the song. You can also print the words to the song.
3. Story (10–15 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play the first part of the story (where they are outside school) to the class. Pause and ask the children questions about what they can see on the screen, e.g. <i>Where are they? Is this a cat? Who is this?</i> • Play a little more of the story and pause when the park can be seen on screen. Now ask the class what they can see in the park. Ask for hands up to give answers. • Play the rest of the story. Did the children like the story? Ask them if the dog was happy. Why (not)? • There is an optional activity worksheet to download and print under the story. You can also print the words to the story.
4. Game (5–10 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play the word game. Children take turns to come to the classroom computer and match a word and picture. Ask for volunteers to put up their hands.
5. Speaking (5–10 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the children to tell you activities they do in the playground/park/at home (e.g. playing on the swings, playing hide and seek, playing computer games). Write the activities on the board. • Ask individual learners, <i>Do you like ...?</i> Encourage them to answer <i>Yes, I do; No, I don't or It's OK.</i> Drill questions and answers by asking the children to repeat after you. • Now ask learners to ask and answer the same questions in pairs, using the prompts on the board. Get two stronger learners to demonstrate this first to the class. Walk around the class, listen, help if necessary and praise your learners.
6. Writing (5–15 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the <i>Free-time activities</i> Your turn writing activity on the LearnEnglish Kids website, children can post comments on the site saying what they like doing in their free time. You could ask the learners to do this for homework if they are registered on the website. • Alternatively, to end the class do an offline version by asking children to write a sentence or two about their free-time activities. Ask the learners to read a few of the comments on the site and say whether they like the same things or not. Lower levels can write a very simple sentence such as <i>I like swimming.</i> Collect the writing and make a poster to display in the classroom.

Contributed by

Sally Trowbridge