

PLAYGROUND
LEADER'S COMMENTS

"This experience has been a profitable one for me. I have seen a new side of child life and needs. The future recreation program could make up in the summer time for the deficiencies of the winter school program. There is the possibility of presenting a program of art, music, crafts and literature that cannot possibly be done in the present-day school environment which is so tied by traditional "fact learning." May I suggest that this type of program could be built around practice teaching from the summer session at the university. The program could remain divorced from the idea of school and accomplish much. There is much that can be done with the term "play". In recreation work, children often mix the words 'play' and 'work'—and work can be fun—it can be play. * * This summer, I have learned that there is all the difference in the world between directed and undirected play. I understand fully that it is the latter which leads among other things to delinquency."

"Regarding age groupings: during playground and gym periods in the regular school term, from necessity, children of one grade age play together. For instance, fifth graders do not want fourth graders playing in their games. This creates a problem during summer playground, when three grade levels must play together. In most cases, this summer, this was taken care of in a sportsmanlike manner. It seems that the regular school term set-up is at fault. * * Janitor service should be supplied at least once each week, as keeping the building clean entirely alone is too great a task for a woman leader. * * The children enjoyed their art period, library reading period, and story hour so thoroughly that the leader feels it was an outstanding part of the daily program. The children loved to lie on the gym floor, during rest period, and listen to such music as the Peer Gynt Suite."

"I question the advisability of having bible school proceed playground activities. For some of the children it was rather tiresome to go from bible study into art work or any activity that kept them indoors. * * The staff meetings on Fridays were helpful in clarifying playground plans and receiving suggestions from other playground leaders. *

"We are not reaching the children who really need playground. The ones who need it are still running in the streets and alleys. Playground does not appeal to them. The children who come to our playground are the ones whose parents are taking good care of them. This was proven by the number who had to miss playground for various camps, parties, etc. * * * The pre-school youngsters should have the same people in charge of them all the time, as they do not like strangers."

"To me, the janitor's duties were the hardest. For instance high gym windows to be locked and unlocked. It was difficult for our 6th grade boys, and I was afraid they would fall on the floors from the step ladders."