

Outdoor Play Scenarios

Scenario 1:

Two eight-year-old children are playing together within earshot of the child care provider. The child care provider's back is turned away from them. The child care provider hears one of the children whisper to the other, "Don't let Stacy see!" What could be happening?

Discussion/reflection: Encourage participants to list potential activities the children might be engaged in that they would not want the child care provider to observe.

Scenario 2:

A five- and six-year-old are playing together in the pine tree "hideout." The child care provider knows where the children are (approximately 20 feet away), however, the children are just out of sight and hearing. The five-year-old comes over to the child care provider and says, "She's trying to get me to drink her witch's potion. She says it will make me strong." The child care provider hurries with the child to the hideout to see what is in the "potion."

Discussion/reflection: Think of the plants, including the weeds, flowers, tree bark, leaves, fruits, and vegetables, that the children could access to put in their potion. Are they safe?

Scenario 3:

(3) 3-year-olds are playing on the Rainbow Playset. The climber has a "fire pole" that the children can access near the ladder. The children are taking turns climbing up the ladder a few rungs and sliding down. The children seem safe. The child care provider is bent over picking up blocks 10 feet away when he hears a scream. He looks up and sees one child lying on the ground and the two other children standing around him. He runs to the children to assess the situation. The five other children are playing nearby. He calls the children to gather for safety and supervision while he assesses any potential injury, but they are busy playing and do not come when they are called. They only turn and stare with confused looks.

Discussion/reflection: How will you/do you gather children quickly together in the event of an emergency?

Identifying Your Backyard Plants

Using the DHS Poisonous Plants document, identify and choose a mildly toxic or toxic plant found on the list that is in your home or yard: <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-7745-ENG>

Using your phone's search engine, search for the plant online (poison.org is a good source).

1. What part of the plant is poisonous?
2. What makes this plant poisonous?
3. What are the symptoms of poisoning?
4. If this plant is in my home, yard or park, what will I do to ensure children's safety?

Report back to the large group with findings.

Activity Example: Philodendron

Philodendrons are popular indoor plants that are easy to grow. They are also toxic to humans and animals.

1. *What part of the plant is poisonous? All of it*
2. *What makes this plant poisonous? calcium oxalate crystals*
3. *What are the symptoms of poisoning? Pain and swelling in the lips, mouth, tongue, and throat, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficult and painful swallowing, difficulty breathing.*
4. *If this plant is in my home, yard, or park, what will I do to ensure children's safety? Keep this plant out of reach of children and animals who may accidentally ingest it or handle it. Wash your hands after working with this plant.*