



ECC Central Courtyard



Courtyard Play Area

Case Study: Early Childhood Centre Play Area

Phuket International Academy Day School
Early Education Centre Courtyard

Creating a Natural Play Space

The EC Centre classrooms are arranged around the perimeter of a central courtyard. Shade sails provide sun protection and trees in planter squares add greenery. The area is neat, tidy, and open air. Kids pedal around the hard-surfaced courtyard, play at the water table, go up and slide down the climbing structure and enjoy going into the comfy sala for story time.

Taking up the hard surface, keeping a trike path with play stops along the way, adding natural elements—sand for digging into, water for play, rocks to climb, hop and sit on, plants to interact with—allowing things to get a little ‘messy’ and adding a Thai style playhouse will offer many new options for play and learning and give new interest and vitality to the play area.

A participatory planning process can begin with a child-centered session. Ask “What do you like most and least about the play area?” “What are your favorite games?” The children’s answers can be the basis for generating new ideas...



Courtyard Play Area Concept Plan