

Case Study: International School Kuala Lumpur Re-thinking A Playground Garden



Art Room Behind Garden



Playground Garden 58ft X 7ft.



Memorial Garden



Sand Play Box

First grade teacher, Lisa, has proposed a plan for the Green Earth Club to re-vitalize the 'boring', neglected garden space that borders the primary school play area and to make it a place for children to enjoy.

The garden at present serves only as a boundary between shade-covered play area and covered art room storage behind it. A narrow drainage runs between the garden space and the art space.

There is opportunity here to engage Green Earth Club members and the broader school community in a teaching-learning process that begins with design, planning and installation of a children's garden that is integrated with play space and is sustained as an ongoing stewardship project.

The key to success in this project is rooted at the start by getting buy-in from all parties—art teachers, classroom teachers, students, administrators, and grounds keepers etc. and allowing lots of time for a participatory planning process.

The planning process begins with observation/analysis of existing site conditions; sun, shadow, soil, water access, water runoff, and patterns of use of the area around the garden and connections between play area, garden, and art space. Sustainable design will come from working with existing conditions as opposed to imposing design ideals.

A final design will integrate garden, art, and play spaces and create a green space that invites interactive outdoor play and learning activities. Implementation of the garden can be a school community project that happens in stages over time.



Playground Garden Concept Plan