

The Playground is Like The Jungle

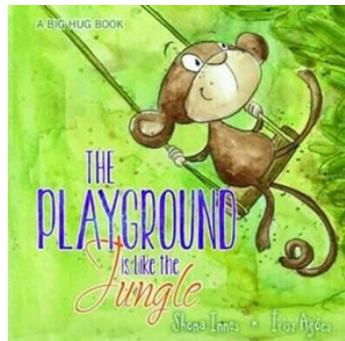
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Publisher: The Five Mile Press

ISBN 9781760064150

\$14.95

The Playground is like the Jungle was written with a view to opening young minds to the rich variety of human personalities that exist in their world. Readers are encouraged to take time to observe the behaviours and moods of others and to make wise and safer choices about play mates.



Themes:

- Dealing with difficult situations
- Different personalities
- Getting along with others

Discussion points:

- Before reading the story, and just looking at the cover, what do you think the story is about?
- When you hear the word 'jungle', what do you imagine?
- When you hear the word 'playground', what do you imagine?
- This book explores the idea that the two are similar. Would you ever think that they may be alike?
- What are some of the games that you and your friends play in the playground?
- What is your favourite thing to do there?
- As a class, discuss some of the rules that you have for playing on your playground. If you haven't got them already, you may like to make up your own class guidelines so that everyone can have fun and feel secure when they are playing.

Activities:

- Arrange a class excursion to an indoor or outdoor playground near your school. Afterwards, ask the children to write about how the day went for them. How different was their experience than playing in their normal playground?
- Reflect quietly on a time when something happened in the playground that you were upset or anxious about. Did reading this book help you to understand that there are ways to manage tricky situations and that everyone is different, with different personalities and preferences, and accepting and tolerating others is a part of life as we grow up?