“Prep” Fun

**Introduction:** Starting in the fourth grade, students in the state of Texas are asked to write meaningfully with prepositional phrases. This lesson will give students a chance to use prepositional phrases while describing playground activities that all students will enjoy performing.

**Grade Level and Subject:** Fourth Grade Writing and P.E.

**TEKS:**
- Writing 15C, 15F, 16A-B, 17D, 18F
- P. E. 1E, 2C, 3A, 3C, 7A, 7C

**Materials:** Regular playground equipment; any equipment needed, as described in the students’ paragraphs, will be provided by the students themselves

**Activity:** The students will begin learning the concept of prepositional phrases in the classroom. After the teacher determines that the students have sufficient knowledge of prepositional phrases, the teacher will begin preparing the students for the physical portion of the lesson.

The teacher should tell the students to think of the playground and all of the activities that they like to do while on the playground. The students will be instructed to write a rough draft of a paragraph in which many different activities are described. While creating this paragraph, the students should be instructed to include at least four different prepositional phrases in their sentences. (The teacher may determine that the students should include more or fewer prepositional phrases in the paragraphs based on each student’s ability level.) An example of sentences a student might include in the paragraph would be, “I like to run quickly to the slide. As I climb up the slide’s ladder, I breathe in and out deeply. I sit down and proceed to move down the slide until I reach the bottom. I then hop to the swings. At the swings, I jump on one and start pumping my legs back and forth to get the swing moving. I then soar high in the air for a couple of minutes.” Based on how comfortable the students are in using prepositional phrases, the teacher might want to write a student-generated list of playground prepositional phrases on the board. When the students have completed their paragraphs, they are to underline the prepositional phrases used while writing the paragraph. Once the teacher has checked the paragraphs for accuracy, it’s off to the playground!

On the playground, the students will begin by performing the activities in their own paragraphs. After a certain time, which should be determined by the teacher before the activity begins, the students will hand their papers to the teacher. The teacher will distribute the papers to the students, ensuring that the students get a new paragraph to read and a new chance to complete some physical activities.

**Evaluation:** The teacher will check every paragraph for accuracy and monitor all activity on the playground.