

LCEEQ - PDIG Journal
Outdoor Classroom 2021-2022

1. Our plan was to continue building our outdoor classroom environment, as well as create lessons and activities related to the curriculum that can be done outdoors. We wanted to create a new learning space that would add to our children's school experience. We wanted to purchase and create tools that teachers could readily use in their lessons.

On the first day, we planned out our release days, purchased items from our outdoor classroom budget, looked at what else we would need in order to accomplish our goals for the PDIG, and created a lesson plan template for our project.

On the second day, we continued purchasing items for our project, we went through the storage area we were provided with for our project, and we organized the material that we received from our last order.

The third day we spent a large majority of our time organizing the materials we received in order for them to be accessible to teachers. We also created lessons and the materials that went with each lesson. We also created a presentation with our expectations for our outdoor learning space.

Our final day was a very busy one! We finalized the organization of our outdoor materials, we create a music wall as an addition to our outdoor learning space, we received more donations for our learning environment so we placed those outside, and we wrapped up our lessons that we placed in our outdoor learning storage space for teachers to use at their convenience.

Our biggest challenge during this project was the organization of materials we received. Some were back ordered, so it became hard at times to finalize things that were missing pieces. Additionally, the creation of lessons for all grade levels proved to be challenging. We dealt with this by dividing the task amongst ourselves and creating multiple lessons for the different levels at our school. In the end, we were able to accomplish all of our goals aside from a few organizational tasks that will be completed at a later date because the materials were still on backorder. We feel it was a very successful PDIG.

2. Our PDIG was successful in all the areas we hoped. I have attached photos at the bottom of this journal showing our new storage space containing materials and lessons that can be used to learn in our new outdoor environment. I also included photos of our new music wall, and our new storage space for our mud kitchen which includes donations we received from the community.

The only goal that was partially met was in the storage area as we are still missing a few items. We ordered materials to create a little toolkit for each student that includes anything they might need when they go to our outdoor learning space (pencils, coloring pencils, etc). We will finalize this once we receive all the materials.

3. As teachers, we gained so much insight and new knowledge regarding how to use our outdoor space to improve student learning, motivation and engagement. We discovered new lesson ideas, we were provided with time to research ways we can use our space, we even learned how to build outdoor learning spaces for our students. Additionally, we were able to work together to share our ideas and therefore we increased our repertoire of activities for our students.
4. We feel that this project will definitely be used by our students, teachers and community. The outdoor learning space will be used by teachers and students during school hours, and the yard is available for families outside of school hours as well. The lessons and resources we have created will be kept in a shared storage area, to be used at teachers and students convenience. This will not only help provide new ideas for teachers, but the materials they need to carry out these activities as well. Creating this outdoor learning environment also provides a safe and educational environment for families wanting to do something free with their children on the weekends or after school. The kids can use their imagination in our mud kitchen, on our music wall, or the many other areas in our outdoor classroom (yoga platform, pergola, etc.) (see photos of our outdoor space and materials in the school below).

To summarize, our PDIG was a huge success. We feel that we learned so much, and were able to provide our fellow teachers, students and community with new resources and a new learning space that they can use at their convenience. We feel that this space and these materials will enrich our students' learning, engagement and motivation at school. It will give them new learning opportunities and will provide our teachers with a new space for their teaching practice.



