

# Preschool Playground

If you enter by way of the SW doors, or have young children in our early childhood areas, you no doubt have noticed that the early childhood playground is largely bare earth-the nice green lawn is mostly extinct. This area is watered and mowed and cared for on a regular schedule. But we have a great problem to have: so much hard use that grass just cannot survive the nearly 24/7 foot traffic and the earth compaction that goes with it. So, there is the “does it look nice” discussion on behalf of visitors and people entering that way.



But...there is another question to consider: Does it function well for the ministry it serves? We are required to have a least three surfaces available for children’s play. We currently offer 5: wood chips, sand, cement, some grass and...dirt. Dirt is actually the most popular option for some of the little boys-no surprise to parents of boys.

Several groups at Immanuel have joined in thinking about these questions and strongly agree that options must be considered. Some play area improvement options require closing the playground for long periods, difficult for staff and children. Some options are more expensive up front, others require high costs to maintain, others high labor, some require re-doing every year, some have 10-15 year useful life.

All proposals offer pros and cons, all options require money.

Funding plans are under consideration and you will soon see invitations to join in the designated fundraisers. The Facilities Ministry Team, Board of Christian Day School, the PTF, the Scrip Team, and Early Childhood staff are aware of this important need and will be working together to define our best option for our playground surface and funding. Participating in ongoing fundraisers like Scrip, various PTF fundraisers and even a few specially designated fundraisers will be necessary to accomplish our playground improvements. If you have questions on this project, please speak to Bill Busacker or Rhonda Warren in the Immanuel office.

**We are blessed** to have and to be a blessing in this community of faith that the Lord has placed here and now to accomplish His purposes. Thanks for all your past support and thanks in advance for your willing hands and generous dollars.