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Ashley's Big Plans

Darell Hammond/ Dawn Hutchison
United States

☀ Values

- Creative Resourcefulness
- Initiative
- Perseverance
- Faith
- The Power of Prayer
- Social Emotional Learning

☀ Reflection Questions

Have you ever prayed for something and had someone offer to help you?

What are the playgrounds like in your community? How could they be better?

Can you imagine finding 100 volunteers and \$40,000 to build one? How would you start?

If you could build a playground in your neighborhood, what would you put in it?

☀ Lessons Learned

The importance of following your dreams.

Miracles do happen.

Invite others to pitch in and help create a common goal.

When young people get others to work together, it's amazing what they can accomplish

Seven-year-old Ashley had been praying for a playground for her Washington D.C. neighborhood. When Darell Hammond came to visit, she knew he was the answer to her prayers. "It's going to take a lot more than imagination," he said. It would take 100 volunteers and \$40,000 to rid this vacant lot of the drugs, gangs and violence so children would have a safe place to play. This is the story of how Ashley and her friends joined with Darell in rallying support from their parents, local companies and churches to build the first KaBoom! playground - and how they kept each other's spirit up until their dream came true.

☀ Language Arts: SEL & Diversity

Invite students to write down/ draw their ideas for an ideal community playground. Create a list of people, organizations and companies to invite to work on this project. Develop a list of steps they would need to take to make the playground a reality. Create a realistic timeline, budget and practical action plan to complete this project.

☀ Social Studies: Diversity

Research the impact after-school programs can have on preventing youth-related crime. What are some of the programs available in your community? Research and report. Investigate innovative youth programs and activities in 5-10 communities in your state. Tape interviews of teens involved with youth programs about the benefits they receive.

☀ Community Service: Service Learning

Collaborate with a youth group to clean up a playground, empty lots for sports, beaches. Invite volunteers to supervise the courts or run a basketball clinic or youth league. Work with students, parents, community organizations to develop a playground, youth center or outdoor basketball courts for after-school sports. Develop a vision statement and action plan; present it at school board / town meetings.

