

Should children be allowed to stay in at break times?

A group of children at Willow Tree School feel they should have the right to stay in at break times if they want to. There are a number of impracticalities regarding such an idea but the children appear not to have considered them.

Firstly, the children have to be supervised at all times and if there were children inside and outside this would not be possible. The budget for lunchtime stuff is already being stretched and there is certainly not enough money to employ extra staff just to satisfy these children.

Some of the children are suggesting that the teachers could supervise them if they choose to be indoors at playtime. Are the teachers not working hard enough already? Do they not deserve 50 minutes to reflect on the morning? Do they not need those 50 minutes to prepare for the afternoon? Asking the teachers to supervise the children is beyond their job description.

Everybody knows that fresh air is needed to help the brain function at its best. In a recent study, Oxford University found that children's concentration tripled once they had been outside. If children were allowed to stay cooped up inside all day their concentration would suffer.

Of course some people might say it's unfair to make children go outside on a cold day. However, it has been proven that colds and illness spread in warm conditions so being outside is actually beneficial to their health. Plus they get to run around and get some exercise while being outside.

Children need to go outside at break times. They need fresh air and exercise for their health. Teachers need a break to prepare, reflect and relax. However, the fundamental reason why children cannot stay in at break times is because there is just not enough money to provide supervision.

Retrieval

What was the name of the school?

Give two reasons why the school cannot manage to supervise indoors and outdoors?

What did the Oxford University Study find out?

Vocabulary

'If children were allowed to stay cooped up'

What does 'cooped up' mean?

Use a dictionary to find out the meaning of **'beneficial'**. Use it in a sentence.

Inference

Who do you support? Give two reasons why.

Fundamental



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A primary rule on which something is based on