Backyard Playgrounds

Today on Gardening in a Minute: backyard playgrounds.

Playgrounds are a staple of many American backyards, and come in all shapes and sizes.

They allow kids to imagine they’re pirates, pretend they’re astronauts, or go on a superhero adventure, all from the comfort of home.

To plan for an active playground area, select plants that are hardy and can stand up to heavy play. Use a turfgrass that can take the wear and tear, or consider a thick layer of mulch for a soft surface.

Kids can be entertained for hours on playgrounds, so it’s important to provide cover from the sun. Plant shade trees, but select larger trees that won’t require frequent pruning.

For safety’s sake, avoid using plants that are irritating or poisonous, and choose a site that can be seen from inside your home.

For more information about playgrounds and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.