

Group: Lingokids

Elliot: Woo-hoo.

Cowie: My turn.

Lisa: Oops, sorry. You got me.

Cowie: This playground is loud.

Lisa: You're it, Elliot.

Elliot: Oh, ouch, sorry.

Cowie: Oops. It's okay, I think I'm going to sit on the bench.

Adult: This is a pretty busy playground, huh, Cowie?

Cowie: Yes, and loud.

Adult: Seems like it's too loud for you, Cowie.

Cowie: Yes.

Adult: I think you're not loving it here. Do you want to talk about it?

Cowie: Well, this playground makes me kind of quiet.

Adult: I can tell you're feeling quiet. Anything else?

Cowie: I feel a little bit like hiding.

Adult: Lingokids listeners, let's help Cowie out. Welcome to *Storytime* by Lingokids, where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of play learning. Today we will talk about playgrounds and how kids like and don't like different things, even at playgrounds. What would you have on a playground if you could have anything you wanted?

[music]

Lisa: Heads up, Cowie, ball incoming.

Cowie: Ouch.

Lisa: [gasps] Cowie, are you okay?

Cowie: Yes, but I do not like this playground. It's too wild and it's too loud.

Lisa: That's what makes it so fun.

Adult: Cowie, you're saying that you feel uncomfortable here, but Lisa, you love it.

Lisa: Hi, Billy, Cowie hates it here.

Adult: Good idea, Billy. Let's design a brand new playground that Cowie likes.

Cowie: Thanks but what's a sign?

Adult: Design, it means to think up an idea and plan it out.

Lisa: Yes, let's make you a magnificent, wonderful playground, Cowie. We're going to assign it. Oops, I mean, design it.

Cowie: Okay. Thanks, everyone.

Adult: Great. This will be fun. We know we want Cowie to love the playground we design. Where shall we begin?

Elliot: Ask Cowie questions.

Lisa: Okay, I got one. Cowie, what's your favorite color?

Cowie: I love all colors. I especially like yellow.

Lisa: Great, let's make a note of that. Cowie likes yellow.

Adult: Great start everyone. Let's ask some questions about what she wants in her new playground, or how she wants to feel when she's there.

Elliot: Cowie, what do you want in your new playground?

Lisa: How do you want to feel there? Probably excited and happy and crazy.

Adult: Great questions, but, Lisa, I think that's how you want to feel. Let's check with Cowie about how she wants to feel, it might be different.

Cowie: I want to feel cozy and messy. I want to do something with colors.

Lisa: Wants cozy feeling, wants messy art.

Elliot: Cowie, do you like it when it's loud or quiet?

Cowie: I like quiet.

Lisa: I will make a note, "Likes quiet."

Elliot: Cowie, do you like playing with friends or being alone?

Cowie: I love playing with friends but sometimes I like to be alone.

Lisa: Alone?

Cowie: Yes, with my imagination.

Kids: Ohh.

Adult: Thanks for sharing with us, Cowie, and great questions, everyone. Let's look again at Cowie's answers and then start thinking of ideas for Cowie's perfect playground.

Lisa: All right, here's what we have, likes yellow, wants to feel cozy, likes messy art, also quiet, loves playing with friends and also not playing with friends.

Cowie: That's me.

Adult: All right, everyone. Now let's think of ideas.

[music]

Elliot: I think Cowie needs a cave.

Lisa: Yes, but not a scary cave, a cozy cave.

Elliot: With a little window.

Cowie: That sounds nice.

Lisa: How about a spot for drawing with chalk?

Kids: Yes.

Elliot: Cowie really loves art, so it should be extra big.

Cowie: My first chalk picture will be a picture of you, Elliott.

Elliot: [unintelligible 00:05:02].

Lisa: Is swinging a good by-yourself activity? Maybe we should have swings.

Cowie: I love to swing.

Lisa: Yay, I'll build Cowie the longest swing ever. You are going to feel so comfortable.

Cowie: Thanks, Lisa.

Adult: That is really thoughtful, Lisa, but before you build the longest swing ever, remember that a good design needs to include careful measurements so that everything fits and so it's safe. Longest doesn't mean best.

Lisa: Oh.

Adult: Instead of making the longest swing ever, how about making one that's just right, long enough that it's fun to swing on, but short enough that you don't accidentally swing into friends walking by?

Lisa: Okay, we can measure it so it's just right.

Adult: Great plan, Lisa. We are making a pretty amazing design. Did you know there are some grownups who design spaces just like this for their jobs?

Lisa: No, wow, really?

Adult: Yes, it's true. They're called urban engineers.

Lisa: Urban engineers.

Adult: That's right. An urban engineer is someone who designs a city or neighborhood. They help decide where to put streets, if the place needs a swimming pool or not, if it should have a bike path or a parking lot.

Cowie: I've never thought about who decides about streets. How do they know?

Adult: By asking questions, trying out an idea, and then working to make it even better.

Cowie: That's just like all other engineers.

Adult: Yes, that's right. Time to draw plans for Cowie's playground.

Cowie: We can use these crayons.

Lisa: [gasps] That looks good, we could put that here.

Cowie: Okay.

Lisa: Or how about over here? Oh yes.

Cowie: Cool. Thanks, everyone, this playground design is the best.

Adult: Kids at home, what would you put in your dream playground design? Let us know and share your designs via email to podcast@lingokids.com. Ask a grown-up to help. Lingokids listeners, thank you for joining the gang as they planned out a playground for Cowie. We learned that a good design starts with asking questions and trying ideas, and also, an important part of engineering is measuring to make sure it's safe. We also learned that not everyone likes the same things, that's what makes different people so wonderful.

If you are ready for interactive play learning time, explore our Lingokids app. It offers fun and educational songs and games to help kids, ages two and older, learn and develop important skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. That's the power of play learning.