

Running into the battle over recess



"Pressure to raise test scores and adhere to state-mandated academic requirements is squeezing recess out of the school day," [the Washington Post reports](#) on its front page this morning. "In many schools, it's just 10 or 15 minutes, if at all. In some cases, recess has become structured with organized games -- yes, recess is being taught.

The story finds differing recess policies across the Washington area -- and different reactions from parents. It then gets into the wider battle over recess: "Recess advocacy groups are popping up across the country, organized by parents or teachers. This spring, the Cartoon Network and the National PTA launched a campaign called Rescue Recess, aimed at starting a grass-roots movement." [Visit the campaign's website.](#) Coverage from around the country on the recess issue is piling up. Stories from this week's papers alone include....

In Virginia's Tidewater area, members of an elementary school delegation to Japan found benefits to short but frequent recess periods, [the Daily Press reports](#). In Massachusetts, [one school's state testing](#) has led to "children not allowed to go outside during recess in fear of disturbing test-takers." In Arkansas, one county's schools say [they won't follow the trend](#) and cut back. In West Virginia, a county says they've cut back but [won't drop recess entirely](#). In Southeast Missouri, a district's new student-wellness policy [discourages teachers](#) from withholding recess as punishment. In Texas, a principal says he's [looking for a balance](#).



Where do you fall on the issue? Pick up the comments dodgeball and let us know.

Quality stories from your own recess years are highly encouraged.

(Also, at right, enjoy bonus content for reading all the way to the bottom of this post. The photo is apparently what happens when an Associated Press photographer visits a middle school playground and doesn't mind the natural reaction.)

(Photos by Rick Bowmer, AP)

Posted by Patrick Cooper at 08:01 AM/ET, June 01, 2006 in [Nation](#) | [Permalink](#)

Comments

where have all the administrators with comon sence gone to. good grief get a grip. kids need to be kids.

Posted by: b griffith | [Jun 27, 2006 10:49:59 PM](#)

In that case might as well take away pens and pencils they are also dangerous! Someone out there needs to get a life! And let the kids have theres back.

Slowly our freedom is taking away from us. Starts with the Kids and then moves to the Adults. In Florida the Condo Nazis like to make there own rules they find ways to bend the constitution and try to control other peoples lifes!

Posted by: John Arnt | [Jun 27, 2006 5:07:30 PM](#)

The teachers trying to get rid of activities at lunch or recess or the ones that probably didn't get picked when they were a child. Kids now need exercise whenever they can and it would help there social skills down the road by being involved with other people rather than the computer or game console.

Posted by: This is stupid | [Jun 27, 2006 5:06:18 PM](#)

Educators, US Dept of Education both know there are better ways to teach but neither implements it. Then they tell us our kids aren't learning, (for 25 years they've said this-saying we are a nation of dummies basically-obviously they want us that way-it's easier to strip us of our rights if we don't know anything) yet do nothing intellectual about it.

It is sickening, demeaning, mean and sick the way the test our children AND THEY STILL AIN'T LEARNING. THEY DON'T TEST GROWN FOLKS, COLLEGE OR GRAD STUDENTS THAT WAY, SO WHY ARE THEY DOING IT TO MINORS???

I know it's preposterous to even ask about rescinding childrens recess. Maybe they all should go back to school. They'd relearn the value of recess then.

Posted by: judalon harris | [Jun 27, 2006 4:25:09 PM](#)

I'm saddened by the continued decline in common sense among the supposedly educated and informed in our schools and elsewhere. Next our educators will require students to be fed by staff because kids can't be trusted with eating utensils. We are witnessing the figurative "decline of the empire." What a bunch of moronic rubes.

Posted by: Kevin K. | [Jun 27, 2006 4:07:12 PM](#)

Good grief, don't school administrators have anything better to do?? You haven't lived until you've had a goose-egg, bloody nose or fat lip. I'm sure the one's pushing this absurdity are the same ones who don't want to make kids "feel bad" by asiging grades to their school work.

The article mentions that some schools let the kids play in gym class "under supervision". Isn't recess supervised??

If Virginia Elementary Teacher wants kids treated like the "real world", have school hours go from 8-5, and get rid of summer break.....

Posted by: King of the Hill | [Jun 27, 2006 3:02:11 PM](#)

and everybody wonders why we have such a high obesity rate, lets just wrap them in bubble wrap and leave them on the shelf, that way they surely won't get hurt.....

Posted by: Harry Parra | [Jun 27, 2006 2:58:42 PM](#)

these people have really lost touch. what idiots, I am just glad I grew up at time when kids were allowed to be kids. No bike helmets, no big brother watching over you like some god..what has this society come to?

Posted by: t kirby | [Jun 27, 2006 2:28:15 PM](#)

Kids need more, not less exercise. Exercise at the beginning of the school day and at intervals during the school day will reduce the sleepiness, the restlessness and increase the ability to pay attention and stay on task. Lets increase the exercise and reduce the dependency on drugs for attention deficity or hyperactivity symptoms.

Why take out games kids can enjoy until they reach the age for competitive sports that are really dangerous and which the school systems encourage such as football.

Posted by: StClair Williams | [Jun 27, 2006 1:35:18 PM](#)

I think it is the money grubbing Republican backed pharmaceutical companies who have initiated this action plan. Without recess and its related physical activities, kids (namely, boys) become overactive in the classroom setting. This unruliness leads leads to a diagnosis of ADD and a prescription for whatever the current fashionable depressant drug happens to be. Soon we have zombie boys and richer Republicans.

Posted by: [Conspiracy Abounds](#) | [Jun 27, 2006 11:42:45 AM](#)

We kept our kids hopping from one sport to the next because it kept them involved and allowed them to burn off that extra energy. Kids need play time as well as school time. Once again the administration does not have a clue about how things should be run. Broken arms, legs and fingers are part of growing up and no matter what you do you can not protect kids from those things. Sounds to me like the administration wants to teach in a box. Don't let them out, feed them information, and send them home. These people are clueless.

Posted by: [Bob Humphrey](#) | [Jun 27, 2006 11:07:54 AM](#)

This is just another example of what happens to a country when the laws no longer allow for common sense, and individual responsibility. Until we end all of the law suits you can expect more rules such as these. Whenever the government tries to limit liability the lawyers are crying fowl. Well now the children are also being hurt by this.

Posted by: Thomas Wieken | [Jun 27, 2006 10:49:50 AM](#)

I completely agree with all the pro recess comments. Recess is vital to a child's education.

Posted by: More Recess | [Jun 1, 2006 1:22:43 PM](#)

I teach in Maryland, so NCLB and mandated tests are a way of life.

There are so many problems in the education system, I don't know where to start.

First, kids depend on technology to do most of their work for them. Ask them to add 78 and 122, and they ask for a calculator. Ask them to spell a word, and they type it into a computer and click on spell check. They misspell (yes, that's spelled correctly) so many words, and don't care. "It's science class, why do I have to spell?"

As for parental involvement, money does matter. Students who come from families with married, non-divorced, non-stepfamilies with two incomes have parents who are more involved. This leads to better scores on quizzes, more attentiveness in the classroom, and fewer "forgotten" homework assignments. Students from single-parent families--especially those without fathers--are more prone to be disruptive, inattentive, and do poorly academically.

Lastly, the administrators and school boards are very out of touch with what goes on in their schools. Many former teachers who are on boards have been out of the classroom for over a decade. And every year, my colleagues and I see a new "revolutionary" tactic to increase learning. Yet the veteran teachers, who have been in the game for 30+ years, do the same thing year after year and have the highest-performing students. What does this mean? The education system does not give itself a chance to really settle down and go with what works. Veteran teachers know what works, and won't let distant administrators dictate what goes on in their classroom. Sometimes tenure is a good thing.

Oh yeah... keep recess. We all need a break.

Posted by: Mr. B | [Jun 1, 2006 1:12:59 PM](#)

I am a teacher. Our kids need free time. They are kids!!! Let them be kids. In todays world, people want their kids to grow up to fast. I grew up in the 60's & 70's. I got to be a kid. I agree...take a look at the teachers...not the kids. I have fun with my students but yet we do our work at the same time. They all had A's. What child wants to go to school when it's dry, cold, prison gaurd for a teacher. NOT ME. If they like their surrounding & the teach, the grades will go up. School should be something they look forward to. There should be balance in the class room. They are children. Get down on their level.

Posted by: Traci | [Jun 1, 2006 12:09:44 PM](#)

When I was in college, we had something called the college hour that lasted from around 11:30 till 1:00 each day. During that time we were free to engage in whatever activity (other than classes) that we saw fit. Not only was this welcome, it was necessary to prevent burnout from the high level lectures being handed to us each day. Learning is important, but learning to interact with our peers is important as well.

If you want to teach someone anything, give it to them after they've had a break. Just like in the business world, you better make your point in the first five minutes of a meeting or it will be lost.

Rested minds are receptive minds.

Posted by: Paul Hafner - Penfield NY | [Jun 1, 2006 12:08:47 PM](#)

Testing scores used as the primary evaluation tool for our education system is an easy way out for those who are to be held accountable for the education of our children. It takes a complicated and multi-faceted process (education) and changes it into a one dimensional object that is summarized by numbers. Perhaps those in charge are taking too many recesses instead of seeking meaningful educational strategies.

Posted by: JKP | [Jun 1, 2006 12:08:28 PM](#)

Don't blame the teachers? Helllloooooo... while there are still excellent teachers in the schools, there are also incredibly horrible teachers, moreso than when I was in school. When I read how districts are LOWERING their standards to recruit new teachers I have to wonder what kind of education their pupils will be getting.

Posted by: moi | [Jun 1, 2006 12:07:11 PM](#)

Want to punish a boy? All you have to do is keep him sitting in a classroom for 6-7 hours without a break listening to a female teacher who -- to his male brain -- sounds like elevator music. Are you NUTS? You'll have boys that fail school and drop out, and society will have males who never become men. If you'll give boys 4 breaks a day, you'll end up with boys that pay better attention in class, learn more, and become better citizens. (As noted by the Headmaster at The Heights School in Washington, D.C. in a newspaper article published April 13, 2006.)

Posted by: Former Teacher - Current Mom | [Jun 1, 2006 12:01:26 PM](#)

I am an SLP (speech-language pathologist) in a rural part of this country. Most of the kids I serve are on reduced or free lunch. To the people that like to blame the schools and teachers....unless you have ever worked in a school, you really don't have any right to criticize teachers/school systems/funding and the like because you do not know what you are talking about! The bottom line is PARENTING PARENTING PARENTING!!!!!! The parents are responsible for the children. They decide IF they come to school, IF & WHEN they go to bed at night, WHAT they eat, IF they do their homework, WHAT they watch on TV, IF they brush their teeth....since when did it fall onto the schools and the teachers to handle all of the above things???? I have kids and I don't expect anyone else to raise them except me. I will do my part of the job and the teachers will teach my child.

I hate to break it to y'all....if a child is obese, 30 minutes of recess a day WILL NOT help that child lose weight. Only changes in diet AT HOME, WILL DO THAT! I am not an advocate of eliminating recess and I think it's ridiculous to have structured (lesson plan) recess, but I am aware of the tremendous pressure the teachers are under when it comes to testing.

However, it all comes back to the same thing.....PARENTS! If the parents don't care, how can the kids? They are kids without guidance. If they are not getting help at home, they are not going to get better at school. If they don't mind at home, they will not mind their teachers at school....it's all cyclical.

Posted by: SLP | [Jun 1, 2006 11:58:39 AM](#)

Don't blame the teachers - this is just another backwash from "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND" - Wake up America - this is the worst educational policy in the history of our public education system - we wonder why we are the "FATTEST NATION ON EARTH" -

Posted by: Supersize Me | [Jun 1, 2006 11:57:14 AM](#)

recess won't matter if parents control the amount of time kids waste on TV and Video games. I request all the parents to turn of the TV and shut the Video games for one full day and then

both will realise what they are missing. It is the stupid TV and video games that are spoiling the american kids unless we found a way to reduce the wastage time with TV, the kids will never improve.

Posted by: Durga | [Jun 1, 2006 11:53:56 AM](#)

If recess is removed from schools it will be the second worst thing to happen in education. (The first being NCLB!) We are so worried about test scores and showing improvment that we are forgetting that they are JUST KIDS!!!!

As a teacher, I know kids will focus more when they have their "wiggles" out. Taking away 30 minutes of recess to increase instruction time and ultimately student learning is not the answer. In fact, I believe it will have the opposite effect.

Education trends seem to go in cycles--someone comes up with an idea to improve education only to find out that it doesn't work. I have a feeling that removing recess will be such a trend. I can only hope that it is a short-lived trend that won't ever reappear!

Posted by: Larua | [Jun 1, 2006 11:51:32 AM](#)

Kids need the release of recess. And like many folks stated above, you are still learning during recess and isn't that what school's all about? Leave recess alone, maybe even increase it in some cases. I think two recesses would be perfect, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The kids "let loose" and will be more refreshed and ready to learn instead of bored out of their mind after listening to a teacher drone on hour after hour.

Posted by: Scott from San Antonio | [Jun 1, 2006 11:49:58 AM](#)

Lets Take away breaks and extended lunch hours from the work place, then see how people feel about not letting kids have gbreaks. If we as adults need breaks on our verry routine days, how are kids going to function if they dont g et there breaks. i think this no child left nbehind act is reduculous, my wife beign a teacher and i am currently in education in school, we bot hagree its only a matter of time untill kids get fet up with it and drop out at a higher rate and ignore the law cuz they are tired of all the preasure that is upon them now and will only get stronger as the years pass. forget the excersize, and the overweight childeren problem for a minute, because i personally think its a prental issue my self, with excersize and diet. but just think, what did recess do for you and how much fun was it to takea small brek from doing paper work and studdying for 2 and half hours. i think its reduclous, and i cant count all the teachers in this contry who are already fed up with this no child left behind stuff, and they are the ones who get to see first hand how it's working. not the people who vote on it.

Posted by: Marty | [Jun 1, 2006 11:44:49 AM](#)

This is ridiculous. Exercise is not only necessary for physical well-being, but mental as well. To be cooped up inside for the entire day in my opinion borders on "creul and unusual." We give those that are incarcerated the opportunity to be outside, correct???

Posted by: Pete | [Jun 1, 2006 11:43:07 AM](#)

Must we schedule our kids' every waking minute? It's bad enough that both parents have to work to survive so we send our kids to daycare where there is structure all day long, then we send our kids to school for more structured learning. Then the kids have structured activities afer school. I don't suggest no structure, but I don't think all structure all the time is good either. That makes for manic adults who don't know how to handle free time. Recess is for decompression, socialization, exercise, and self discovery. Recess should be fun and active. Recess is important in and of itself and should not be sacrificed.

Posted by: [Laura W](#) | [Jun 1, 2006 11:42:08 AM](#)

no recess.....less p.e.....no pledge of allegiance with "god" in it.....no child left behind?.....no discipline.....problem is, we're "leaving" children behind by our lack of common sense, respect and manners.....bring back the good ole days when school was rewarding and fun.....how is it that my generation, 45 and up, has done a pretty good job of getting this country to where it is only to have it chopped up by the no-common-sense adults of today....."god" forbid!

Posted by: Johnnie Wood | [Jun 1, 2006 11:31:12 AM](#)

Thankfully my kids get three recess periods per day outside, weather permitting. As far as low test scores go, perhaps we should look at the teachers, and not the outlet for kid energy, for the reason why kids are scoring poorly on tests. The better the teacher (I had), the more I learned and the better I did on tests. Simple. Could you imagine spending even more time with a crappy teacher? While you're itching to expend some pent up child energy? I think the test scores would go even lower.

Posted by: moi | [Jun 1, 2006 11:30:31 AM](#)

We had a morning, lunch and afternoon recess, playing dodge with that big red rubber ball back in the 1980's, and many more CREATIVE games. Even though I scored badly on my standard test ALL the time when I was kid, I was still able to go into one of the top universities, and now a very productive citizen.

Americans are the most creative, most productive individuals on earth, tests are NOT for everyone. Grow-up parents and take responsibility for your children!!!! Let the children play and let loose, and don't make this an issue. Asia maybe doing well in test, but that's all I've seen.

Posted by: American Teacher in China 7 years | [Jun 1, 2006 11:30:23 AM](#)

Kids absolutely need time to go and play and run and scream and just let loose! It's just plain crazy! I know already that lunchtime is cut back and the kids are forced and sit and shovel their food down and sometimes forced to not talk during that time, that to me is just crazy too and then to take away recess, I just cannot imagine. I did like the idea that one principal in TX asks his teachers to not use taking away recess as a punishment. I agree with that one....find another way.

Posted by: Renee from Deale, MD | [Jun 1, 2006 11:29:51 AM](#)

The Greeks had it figured out centuries ago. Strong mind, strong body, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that the two go hand in hand.

Posted by: mvw | [Jun 1, 2006 11:27:41 AM](#)

I need to give my employees breaks according to state law... Let the kids be kids, but also treat them like human beings and give them the breaks that they NEED!

I'm also appalled by the Virginia Teacher that lumped Music and Art into "interruptions." That is another topic entirely, but it also points to the problem in the stress placed upon testing, which is why we're talking about eliminating recess. Go to any great prep school in the world, and you will see music and art as part of their curriculum -- we're just going to pump out kids that lack culture but perhaps have better "test" scores and poor physical health.

Posted by: Seattle | [Jun 1, 2006 11:26:33 AM](#)

Too many of you have gotten off the subject and talked about low test scores and/or the lack of discipline of kids by their parents in the home. That has nothing to do with the subject of recess. Again, recess is important to the majority of kids; if some kids don't like it, they can stay inside the school and read their textbook if they wish. Don't take away educating the physical by physically educating because then kids will find other ways, possibly negative ways, to expel their energy. It's better if it's done at school during recess playing games they enjoy.

Posted by: A.L. | [Jun 1, 2006 11:22:46 AM](#)

We recently moved into a new school district and the only thing I am disappointed in is playground time for my third grader. #1. No outside play is scheduled at all during the winter (November-April) due to the extra time and trouble of snowpants, boots, gloves, etc. #2. During good weather, parents are asked to volunteer to supervise playground activities, which often isn't possible if both parents work. If there aren't enough volunteers, no one goes out to play.

Posted by: [Linda T.](#) | [Jun 1, 2006 11:22:37 AM](#)

It's inevitable that every nation strives to be "the best" but at what cost?

Let's go back in history a bit. Women wanted independence and rightly so BUT now the majority of parents both have to work just to make ends meet or keep up with the Jones'. Who suffers for this...our children do in every way. What's wrong with living simply? We forget we are raising those who will run our country. Scary. Today, it's the poor and illiterate that are

having all the children, since the educated want to "have it all" by either not having kids or waiting too long and cant. The recess issue is small in comparison. Educated people should be smart enough to live simply, have children and be there to raise them instead of pawning them off on the schools, daycare and everyone else. Our priorities are really messed up!
Posted by: LAB, RDH, BA Edu. | [Jun 1, 2006 11:17:37 AM](#)

Dear Hot in the City

You are a fool. My wife works as a teacher (non union). I am positive she works twice as hard as you do. She teaches all day and then comes home to grade papers, create lesson plans, do report cards, etc. How about we increase your work day by a half an hour? I guess you are one of those people who think as a parent you have no responsibility to help with your Childs education.

Posted by: Robert Proud to have served. U.S. Navy | [Jun 1, 2006 11:07:38 AM](#)

Kids are obese, lets unplug the soda machines, great idea....kids are obese, lets stop them from getting excercise??????????

Posted by: [DaleF](#) | [Jun 1, 2006 11:07:32 AM](#)

we had 3 recess periods in my elementary school. and when it was actually nice outside, they were often extended. this is ridiculous that kids are stuck inside particularly considering that now they just go home and play video games. we barely started getting computers when i was in school. clearly, there is a pressure with the testing process that is showing its negative effects more strongly now than ever. there are so many reasons the current testing procedures are screwed up--this is only another reason to modernize the testing methods.

Posted by: jh | [Jun 1, 2006 11:04:48 AM](#)

I moved my 8 year old from Georgia where she might get one very short recess a day to Kansas where she gets 3 recesses a day. Even though she is very smart and received good grades in Georgia, she was in trouble for not listening to the teacher, talking during classtime and not doing as well as she could. Since being in Kansas her grades, attitude and motivation to learn have increased since being in school in Kansas. She no longer gets in trouble for not listening or talking during class and her motivation to learn extends outside the classroom. I think if more parents insisted on recesses in the school less children would have these attention problems. As a RN I was taught that when dealing with young children I had to make sure they got appropriate breaks when giving them any instructions. Why should teachers not follow what is taught during their. I know that I was taught during child development classes that children need age appropriate breaks when being instructed or receiving therapy, even if they are sick.

Posted by: [Debra Cooper](#) | [Jun 1, 2006 11:04:46 AM](#)

O come on, this isn't serious is it??

Some of the most valuable "learning" goes on at recess. They learn to make friends, persuade other people to give them their lunch money, negotiate time on the swing, lead a team, find out what dirt takes like and just plain make stuff up BECAUSE THEY CAN!!

Our kids are overscheduled as it is. If we allow this to happen, don't be surprised when they go to work and expect everyone there to tell them what to do and when to do it. They won't know how to think for themselves. Wait, that's probably the goal isn't it!?

Leave recess alone or we're all coming after you with those overinflated red rubber balls!!!

Posted by: DJR in Cincinnati | [Jun 1, 2006 11:03:31 AM](#)

Like blind fools we compare our schools academic achievements based the posted results of other countries. It seems most don't know or won't tell you that a lot of these other countries don't waste their time or money on children with low IQs. Here in America we educate everyone (rightfully so). By educating everyone though we are left to compare the academic achievements of all our children against only the top percent of children in other nations. When GWB pushed No Child Left Behind, I thought he was a liberal in GOP clothing. The simple fact is (whether anyone but me has the guts to say it), is that some kids are just slow and nothing any teacher/school does is going to change that fact. Making them suffer another 20 minutes a day on a topic they will never fully grasp is the real injustice.

Posted by: Robert Proud to have served. U.S. Navy | [Jun 1, 2006 11:02:47 AM](#)

Ok, the advertised problem is low test scores. The underlying problem is we can't fix the real reasons the test scores are low (ineffective discipline at schools and lack of parenting). So we try and find alternative solutions, like "No Child Left Behind and Little if Any Recess) which only seems to have hurt the majority of the kids.

At my child's middle school, recess was cancelled about half way through the school year, because there were too many problems at recess (i.e. fighting). So for the remainder of the year the kids spent the 15 minute recess period after lunch in their home rooms watching movies. Great, Just Great!!

In our school district about 10-15% of the kids cause the majority of the behavior problems. These kids often do not receive any parenting at home. My wife is an early childhood teacher and over the years she has learned that she can identify which kids are going to be in trouble as they grow up, by the type of parents they have. This isn't always the case, 8 or 9 times out of 10 it is.

Now, when I was in school, there were kids with un-caring, un-involved, crappy parents back then too, which basically fostered kids who were either the poorer academic students or who were troublemakers or both. However the kids acted totally different in school because of corporal punishment. Today, teachers spend a very inordinate amount of time trying to deal with trouble makers, where back in the day, the offender was sent to the principals office and he or she came back quiet as a church mouse.

There are all sorts of programs out there to help parents or teach parents how to parent. However you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. So I don't think we will find the ultimate answer there. The only solution as I see it is to regain control of the schools and classrooms.

Posted by: JLS | [Jun 1, 2006 10:59:11 AM](#)

Recess is important to children; not only does it teach teamwork; it teaches a person how to win , how to lose, how to follow rules, it releases endorphins which releases positive signals through the body. When a child is in a class for two or three hours they need a break.

Exercising is good for children; especially, since there is a rise in child obesity and other diseases that are contributed to a lack of exercising.

Posted by: Eric chavez | [Jun 1, 2006 10:56:06 AM](#)

This is an easy one. Yes, everyone agrees that kids need exercise. It's just that bureaucratically it's a lot easier to take 30 minutes of the kids' free time than to get the teachers union to extend the workday by 30 minutes

Posted by: Hot in the City | [Jun 1, 2006 10:50:25 AM](#)

Children are supposed to play and run and jump...often! Physical activity will enhance their health! Children are bright and inquisitive from birth until we send them to school where their natural curiosity is squelched, where they're drilled on whatever the state deems important, and where the children are taught how to take tests. Perhaps that is why recess is being eliminated - to give the schools more time to drill the kids so they can pass the all-important state tests and receive their funding.

Posted by: Jamie | [Jun 1, 2006 10:49:45 AM](#)

It isn't just the kids that need the break, it is the teachers also. These teachers have to deal with kids that are so disobedient it is absurd. Parents sugar up their kids with Fruit Loops before school, pack their lunch with a soda and sugary sweets and then run to the doctor and say their kid has ADHD because the teacher can't keep them under control. All the sugar and caffeine these kids are ingesting makes it harder for the teachers to keep control of the classroom. 1 - 2 kids per class with attention problems lead to more lost learning time than recess ever could.

The importance placed on these standardized tests is ridiculous. Let the teachers teach these kids using their innovation. These kids don't struggle from a lack of ability, just lack of interest. I remember a kid in school that got a D in Geometry, but was brilliant with electronics. He just didn't care about Geometry. If the teacher could have correlated the Geometry to his interests, he would have been an A student.

Posted by: Give the Teachers a Break Too | [Jun 1, 2006 10:49:43 AM](#)

We all need a break. That's the bottom line. And when we're talking about school kids, especially boys. Many of them are aggressive and need an outlet. If running around a school yard for a few minutes can help, then why not? If that's taken away, then the teacher will probably complain that the kids aren't paying attention and then the school will suggest that the kid has Attention Deficit Disorder and should be medicated.

Posted by: [Denise](#) | [Jun 1, 2006 10:49:27 AM](#)

In the debate over the value of school over other types of education like homeschool or unschooling, school advocates always point to the value school has in the "socialization" of children. As we all know, "socialization" is forbidden during class, so if recess is eliminated the supposed advantage of formal school has been entirely eliminated.

Posted by: Stephen Trapani | [Jun 1, 2006 10:49:17 AM](#)

At work, the employers are required by law to give their employees a minimum of half hour "lunch" break. Why would you take that from the teachers. Students, specially those in grades K - 12, need to be able to develop their social skills. This is not done by sitting in a classroom all day. I get letters from my son's teachers every year asking me to ensure that he does not spend more that 30 minutes a night doing homework. The problem is not that there is not enough time in the day, the problem is the teachers are ill prepared. They don't have all the tools necessary and when they do, their class has more than 30 stuedents in it. We as parents are to blame as well, we need to get involve with our children. help them do their homework, discuss what subjects they have a hard time with and help them. If we don't know, we can always hire a tutor, those that can't afford a tutor, talking to the teacher will also help. Let's not run around like chickens with their heads cut off. Taking recess away is the wrong things to do. Some of my best childhood memories have to do with recess. We have already destroyed most of our childrens' self esteem by making them think they're too fat, let's not make the final blow by making them think they're too stupid as well.

Posted by: Bones | [Jun 1, 2006 10:48:15 AM](#)

We live in the fattest country in the world and our health care is in major disorder due in part to our obesity. Childhood obesity is at an all time high and while "recess" may not be essential, daily physical exercise is...

Posted by: Bill Micheals | [Jun 1, 2006 10:47:38 AM](#)

Recess and breaks are an important part of learning and developing as a child (and adult). It is true, however, that

1) teachers are slaves to their funders, and are scared they will lose funding if the students don't excel (it is probably a little unrealistic to expect that all children will do academically-well in school).

2) bullying is a problem in schools. Either teachers are too immature and/or restricted in what they can do to prevent this.

However, we need to allow physical activity and somewhat unrestricted time for our children while they are in school.

Posted by: philly dma | [Jun 1, 2006 10:43:28 AM](#)

Amazing really. We are in the midst of a healthcare crisis where the number of children becoming unhealthy and obese rises every year, yet now we are talking about eliminating the opportunity for our children to get some exercise. Physical activity increase mental capacity, why do away with a necessary part of everyones day? Instead of eliminating the necessary physical activity of recess, why don't we increase the amount of time (days) children are in school? Why do schools still have summer break for three plus months? The real answer is the Teachers Unions but that is a whole separate topic. A solution. Keep the 10 days at Christmas (yes I said "Christmas" so sue me.) Keep the week break for spring, give another 10 day break in June or July and another break for fall say, in October. School should be a full time endeavor. The Teachers Unions will scream bloody murder but they need to get a clue. The need for a three month summer break is not there anymore. Use that time to educate our children.

Posted by: [Real American](#) | [Jun 1, 2006 10:43:24 AM](#)

And we wonder why kids can't concentrate in school. Adults would go nuts sitting still for hours without their coffee break. Let the kids run free for 30 minutes (these are kids-they are suppose to be active). I loved PE and free time when I was in school and I still got into a decent PHD program.

Posted by: Elle | [Jun 1, 2006 10:39:43 AM](#)

In this age of obesity, I think instead of No Child Left Behind, we should focus on No Child being left to sit on his or her behind. Kinds need recess as a wellness initiative (as outlined by the Surgeon General in the Healthy People 2010 goals). Not to mention the engery they need to blow off. A kid who is all riled up with energy can't concentrate and is only disruptive to the classroom. What good is that?

Posted by: Kimberly from Atlanta | [Jun 1, 2006 10:36:16 AM](#)

i'm glad they are getting rid of recess. Kids are too stupid today as it is, why should we encourage them to take an extra hour off. Its kind of funny. Kids today are the most tech-saavy ever, but they also are stupider than ever.

Posted by: tex | [Jun 1, 2006 10:32:24 AM](#)

The only thing I ever got out of recess was bullying. Same with phys ed. No loss.

Posted by: Garden State | [Jun 1, 2006 10:24:51 AM](#)

when i was an elementary school student i felt recess was the highlight of my day.Now that i look back i that i think i was a pretty dumb kid.I personally think that recess should stayu but just as virginia teacher said.There are a various amount of disruptions in the school day which are not needed

Posted by: middle school student | [Jun 1, 2006 10:22:22 AM](#)

It boils down to Federal and State MANDATES.

We are requiring so many more subjects today that you can't fit all the classes into the schedule.

NCLB act is great on paper but absolutely killing the educational process. Giving college classes in high school! We wonder why kids can't be kids; our society wants more, more and more!

Life goes by fast enough; we don't need all this acceleration in education. Not every kid is going to be a rocket scientist. We are lacking in people skills, social skills. physical skills because most people thing the only thing that needs to be involve is the brain. To bad some of the higher elected officials don't use the one they have.

Posted by: Steve Blackburn | [Jun 1, 2006 10:20:18 AM](#)

I am in SW Virginia. The kids here do have recess every day, plus extra breaks if they finish their work as a class on time/early. However, the problem I have is with limiting HOW kids can play at recess. They are not allowed to touch each other...like playing tag. What is that about?? There are no more school-supplied jumpropes. The red playground balls can only be used in the gym.

Yes, kids would probably get hurt during recess if they were allowed to run and play tag or toss balls around, but that is what being a kid is about. If we are too afraid to let our children really play, then what is the good of having recess at all?

Posted by: KJ | [Jun 1, 2006 10:18:27 AM](#)

One more indication of the radical obsessive nature of our public school systems. They have bought (hook line and sinker) the mistaken belief that 'the more we test, the better education we are providing.' Testing, as an outcome measure as well as financial gain, has usurped the attention that needs to be paid to actually teaching. In a nation with morbid, and growing rates of obesity, sedentary lifestyles, and kids whose only calorie burning activity is sitting in front of a t.v. or computer screen, physical activity (not to mention time just to be a kid) is the last thing that our public schools need to be relinquishing.

Posted by: Perry Bohanon MSN, ARNP | [Jun 1, 2006 10:17:33 AM](#)

Remember back when we were kids and there was no recess, and the focus was on testing, not teaching???

Neither do I.

And yet, we seem to be doing just fine...

Posted by: JFro | [Jun 1, 2006 10:16:46 AM](#)

I am not only ashamed, I am appalled that this is even an issue! American children are some of the most unhealthy children of all modern countries! Allowing our students no way to expend excess energy...how will this affect the atmosphere in the classroom?

Posted by: Ashamed in FL | [Jun 1, 2006 10:14:52 AM](#)

It had to happen...

Recess becomes either part of an instructional curriculum or made obsolete. If the activity can't be structured by adults, then there's no place for it. Gone with the run-by-kids, pick-up ball game. This is another victim of modern parenthood.

Posted by: michael pate | [Jun 1, 2006 10:14:19 AM](#)

Recess is so important for kids to run around and get their exercise. It seems that Physical Education is getting cut as well. Our childrens test scores are have been too low for a while now. Cutting anything physical from our childrens lives has been hurting their academic far more than helping it.

The short school day has outlived its usefulness, we need longer school days with more recess and P.E. Children do their best listening when they are all worn out.

Posted by: Joshua Danner | [Jun 1, 2006 10:12:42 AM](#)

Whether it is recess or napping human beings need breaks. Kids need ways to release and store energy throughout their development. Here are a few successful "nappers"

Winston Churchill – said he needed his afternoon nap to cope with his responsibilities.

Thomas Edison attributed his tremendous amount of energy to sleeping whenever he wanted to.

John D. Rockefeller took a nap every afternoon in his office.

Eleanor Roosevelt was known to take a nap before a speaking engagement.

William J. Clinton retired to his private quarters every afternoon at 3:00 for a 30-minute nap.

Connie Mack took a nap before every game.

Gene Autry used to take an hour nap in his dressing room between performances.

Ronald Reagan has the ultimate napping reputation even though his wife denies that he had a napping habit.

Posted by: Napper | [Jun 1, 2006 10:12:14 AM](#)

An extra hour of teaching is not going to make my kids do better on tests. They need stimulation. I only really learned when I was having fun and I did enjoy school. Recess was a part of the package.

Posted by: Dave M. | [Jun 1, 2006 10:11:34 AM](#)

Recess is not the issue. Test scores are - maybe (see further below). The elimination of recess is a result or symptom of the low test scores. So let's figure out the root cause of low test scores.

Better yet, let's ask ourselves why we care about test scores at all. What is the end result?

Are we asking our kids to take tests for the sake of taking tests? Do higher test scores generate happier and healthier individuals? Do we want to have higher test scores than all other countries?

Once we truly know what our goals are, and can all agree upon them, then maybe we have a chance. Until then, we will wander aimlessly with direction to our due course.

Posted by: Justin Time | [Jun 1, 2006 10:10:16 AM](#)

It is obvious that most people believe that physical activity for our kids is important.

All this pressure to increase scores at the detriment of free time is completely oxy moronic.

The fact is spaced breaks and physical activity will only improve scores not decrease them.

This is a FACT. Let's stop focusing all our attention on issues that do not matter in school and focus on the three R's. Mothers watch what is happening to your sons. Pay close attention.

They are dropping out of school at higher rates, not going to college. This recess issue is part of it. This is the feminization of your boys and your nation. Good luck competing in the world economy in 20 years.

Posted by: John R State College PA | [Jun 1, 2006 10:04:00 AM](#)

So what is next, no vacation time, why not work though weekends, and why stop school in the afternoon, the kids could work till 7pm, maybe 9.. No wait, they could stay in govt boarding schools 365 days a year. the government would take the children at age 4 and return them at age 17 or 18 whenever graduation is. no parent will know their children, and probably we will have obese, and freaky kids.. but hey the test scores go up.. or NOT?

Posted by: wk | [Jun 1, 2006 10:03:26 AM](#)

Ever seen a road rage episode by an adult after a long work day (with probably no breaks)?? Better yet, you ever been to a restaurant sitting next to family with children that have sat for over an hour? You know, they should cut out lunch period too. Why not have them eat at their desk while testing or learning? Makes perfect sense. I know I enjoy working at my desk while cramming some food down in 5 minutes. Kids should love it! This ought to make entertaining news stories to come.

Posted by: JR | [Jun 1, 2006 10:02:47 AM](#)

I loved the comments from "Confused American". Personally I'm in favor of a year round school policy with 2-3 week breaks given at certain times. By doing this it would be easier to give children breaks throughout the day knowing that they have a longer school year to get the message across. Remember how seeing your "girlfriend" at recess and pushing her on the swing always gave you the energy to finish the day.

Posted by: Irritated American | [Jun 1, 2006 10:02:41 AM](#)

The smarter we get the dumber it seems we are. We have an obesity epidemic, no child left behind is a load of baloney, and the only solution we can come up with is to nix a short recess? As if the 20 minutes the children spend playing will make up for the 6 hours of inadequate schooling that they receive now!!!

Posted by: Timus | [Jun 1, 2006 9:59:06 AM](#)

This is what happens when parents send their children to GOVT schools. Why would you want the imperial federal government educating your children? All schools should be privatized. Why do you think private school kids succeed in life with better careers and healthier lives..

Posted by: Jeremiah | [Jun 1, 2006 9:56:47 AM](#)

As a PhysEd major, it is vitally important that kids have recess because they need that time to release energy and tension built up in the classroom. It's exercise they get from otherwise sitting in class all day and then sitting in front of their computer playing video games at home. For anyone who believes recess is not important, is obviously someone who doesn't like exercise that recess is intended to provide. It's called taking a break. Capiche?

Posted by: A.L. | [Jun 1, 2006 9:56:33 AM](#)

Kids do poorly blame the school and teachers. Kids are fat blame the food industry. Kids don't learn enough take away recess. Some body has to start talking about parents and what they are responsible for. Learning, good diet, social skills it all starts at home...or should. Stop expecting the government and everyone else to be responsible for your children. You make them, take care of them. We need to start locking up bad parents...no more slap on the wrist.

Posted by: Blame Parents! | [Jun 1, 2006 9:56:06 AM](#)

Recess is very important!

Kids (and adults) NEED exercise.

While structure is important, so is time to play and be creative. They must have time to unwind and discover themselves.

We hear so much about ADHD, etc. Anyone forced to sit in a chair and listen, read and write for several hours without a break would become a little short on attention!

More testing + fewer breaks = unhappy & unhealthy kids

The focus should not be for kids to simply excel on tests. It should be to TEACH them. Be creative, get their attention. They will excel!

Posted by: r phillips | [Jun 1, 2006 9:55:07 AM](#)

I think its a disgrace that our children are forced to shorten their resource. Physical activity and that release is important. My kids complain of long lines at lunch which forces them eat only a portion of their food so they can squeeze in the full 15 minutes. Perhaps rather than forcing all this information in a shorter period of time, we should extend the school day

Posted by: [Renee](#) | [Jun 1, 2006 9:54:05 AM](#)

Where has our society gone? With the obesity rate of children and the stress of school, recess is an outlet for a lot of children. It was for me! We gave gotten away from letting kids be kids.

Posted by: Lisa D | [Jun 1, 2006 9:52:04 AM](#)

It's funny - I graduated from high school in 1982 and all through elementary school we had 3 recesses - mid-morning, lunch and mid-afternoon. I graduated with honors, went to college and have been employed by the same company for 20 years and have a great job with excellent pay. I wonder where I'd be now if I hadn't had those recesses??? Kids need breaks and school needs to be at least a little fun. My daughter (6th grade) gets one recess a day (at lunch) and on Friday, if they've been really good, they get a "bonus" recess. Wow. Believe me though, it doesn't take much for the teachers to jerk that recess back from them.

I can't stand to sit through a 3 hour meeting without a break and I know my kid gets fidgety/bored/restless after listening to the teachers drone on for 1 hour, let alone 3 or more, especially since one teachers idea of teaching is to turn on a tape recording of the chapter being studied and having the students listen and follow along in the book - yea right.

Posted by: Mom in Ohio | [Jun 1, 2006 9:51:21 AM](#)

Recess is more than just about playing games. Kids need time to learn social interaction on their own. recess gives them that chance and makes school fun. Kids will do anything(like want to go to school more) if its fun.

Posted by: thomasNYC | [Jun 1, 2006 9:51:11 AM](#)

Okay, so recess was never a very "productive" part of the school day. But it was easily the funnest part, a much-needed break from being cooped up in classrooms, trying to sit still and/or stay awake in "one-size-fits-all" desks that were brutally uncomfortable.

Dodge-ball, kickball, "King of the Hill (dirt pile)", etc., all voluntarily co-ed games before they were required to be co-ed. Hey, it was one of the few times you could nail a girl you didn't like in dodge-ball or impress one you did without getting in trouble, and the girls often saw it as an opportunity to "show the boys" they were more than capable of dishing it out, too.

Yeah, we ended recess dirty and sweaty, sometimes bruised or bloodied or with ripped or torn clothes, and, yes, it took awhile for us to "simmer down" in our first class after recess.

Yet, looking back, I can't imagine having gone through school without it. To read that it's now being cut back or even eliminated --- just as music, art and other "non-essential school activities" have been in the past --- is for me further evidence that our public schools have become over the past four decades very unhealthy places for our children.

Perhaps instead of cutting back or eliminating the children's recess, we should begin requiring that public school teachers and administrators have their own recess periods. A little fresh air and exercise would do them good, too.

Posted by: Dave D. | [Jun 1, 2006 9:51:11 AM](#)

I do not think that recess is causing the slight inhibition of our children's learning. I think the problem really lies at the way we live our lives by always watching TV and playing video games. If we could spend that time reading books or being productful like volunteering or teaching people the knowledge that we do know it would probably increase our kids academic skills exponentially. Recess is fun and allows people to socialize, why in the world would we want to prevent that from happening.

Posted by: FSU Cell Biologist | [Jun 1, 2006 9:49:23 AM](#)

Obviously humans are getting dumber, because the students 50 years ago learned to read and had recess, too.

Posted by: Governor | [Jun 1, 2006 9:49:07 AM](#)

Great comments so far...Let's not also forget that it is recess where kids learn to socialize and build relationships with their peers....it certainly isn't done sitting behind a desk listening to a teacher lecture. With cell phones, ipods, pagers, etc the art of peer interaction and socialization is also getting lost.

Posted by: Randy | [Jun 1, 2006 9:49:02 AM](#)

We complain that are kids are obese and now we want to do away with recess. Do we want all of the next generation to look and act like our congress and senate? Overweight and know nothings. The system worked for years and now the school system in this country is a total mess and even throwing billions at the problem it is not solving anything. We need to take back this country from the attorneys and the dumb asses we have in Washington.

Posted by: Paul Resop | [Jun 1, 2006 9:48:49 AM](#)

For the Virginia School Teacher: We are prepping children for the life after school. No one goes to a job anymore where they aren't interrupted, switch gears, or multi-tasking every day. Too much stress is placed on children to succeed on these standardized tests. Giving them 15 minutes to run around and take a mental break would not hurt their learning.

Posted by: dtishish | [Jun 1, 2006 9:48:31 AM](#)

And we wonder why obesity has risen in children? We also are now drugging the kids more because it is perceived that they have attention problems/disorders because they won't sit still or behave "properly" in class. When are they supposed to let off steam? In Texas all the elementary children have to tip-toe around school and wait to even go to the restroom while the ridiculous TAKS tests are being taken by students in 3rd and 5th grades. I certainly don't want my kids to loose out on some of the fun of being a child so that the schools can get more money from our micro-managing government and school officials. Come on, let's use some common sense!!

Posted by: Concerned Parent | [Jun 1, 2006 9:47:50 AM](#)

Let me see now....,"raise test scores and adhere to state-mandated academic requirements." Sounds like some of Duh-bya Bushie's, "No Nation...I mean, "No Child Left Behind" program. Obviously, the decision to cut out recess is being made by people who work very far from a classroom.

When will this country wake up and start tackling and solving our education problems? Um, I guess after we "solve" the gay marriage, abortion rights, prayer in school, gun control and any other, "let's change the subject" issues the GOP can come up with...THEN maybe we'll start educating our future.

Posted by: John from Dallas | [Jun 1, 2006 9:45:42 AM](#)

It's no wonder we have a rise in school violence issues and obesity. If I was expected to sit quietly all day and listen to blah, blah, blah, I'd lose it! Anyone hear of Columbine??? There are more benefits to having breaks/recess than not having them. Hopefully, common sense will prevail here.

Posted by: No wonder... | [Jun 1, 2006 9:45:28 AM](#)

I have to say that it wasn't too long ago that I went to recess and boy was it fun! Honestly, recess was a great way for all of us (then) students to get some excess energy out, socialize with friends from other classes (w/out being punished for talking during class) and great exercise time. Not only that, all of us were more likely to not be disruptive when we went back into the classroom.

For people that complain about obesity in children, taking away what short amount of exercise they get each day will not help solve the problem.

As for disrupting classes, the reason so many children do not do well is because of lack of funding towards public education, lack of parental involvement in their children's schooling (looking at a report card once a semester does not count as involvement), and lack of adequate homework each night for a child. My mother is Korean, my father is American. I was

raised in America, but held to the Korean standard of education. I have to say compared to my other peers, I was really blessed. Funny thing is throughout all my schooling including 4 years of college, many of them have admitted to being jealous of how I was raised. Who would have thought?

Posted by: Parent from Cleveland | [Jun 1, 2006 9:44:13 AM](#)

Doing away with recess is the most ignorant idea, I truly think I have EVER heard in education. Especailly in elementary school. If these types of ignorant decisions continue to be made, I can assure you, you will see an increase in home schooling.

Posted by: Dave Weirick | [Jun 1, 2006 9:42:49 AM](#)

I agree, I am so glad I was a kid when we were allowed to run around, play kickball and dodgeball, and actually enjoy some 'down time' throughout the day. Kids can only sit still and absorb so much at a time. Were the adults that are making these new rules today the kids that got picked last for kickball? Everyday we hear about obesity in children, but we take away all the chances of physical activity during the day and make them sit with a book in their face...no wonder our country is going to the dogs...kids can't be kids anymore....it's a shame.

Posted by: [A mom of two](#) | [Jun 1, 2006 9:38:55 AM](#)

We give employees two ten-minute breaks every work day. Seems the least we could do for our kids. Kids need break time and they need play time. As "far behind" other countries as I hear we are, others wtil want to come here for university degrees -- we seem to be catching up when it counts. Time for the adults to wake up.

Posted by: Bruce Purcell | [Jun 1, 2006 9:35:49 AM](#)

Recreation in the form of recess is necessary. Kids need to play to get out all that energy from the sodas that the school sells.

Matt

Posted by: Matt | [Jun 1, 2006 9:34:01 AM](#)

Poor kids! It's important for them to have free time. It's a chance for them to run around and participate in physical activity. We hear so much lately about children being obese. How is eliminating recess going to help that.

Also, do children really have the attention span to sit 6 hours in a classroom? I know that I couldn't as an adult and they probably have an even harder time.

Educating children and meeting standards are very important. The schools and teachers need to find a better more innovative way of doing it in the time allowed.

Posted by: amc | [Jun 1, 2006 9:28:03 AM](#)

It amazes me that 50-60 years ago we had recess, didn't spend half the school years teaching a test and still put man on the moon. Is it that kids are just plain slower these days or is it the teaching techniques of the draft dodgers who never spent a day in a classroom teaching who developed the current pedagogy? Makes one wonder since money is obviously not the answer - no improvement no matter how much we are forced to spend on education.

Posted by: [Bearcat1](#) | [Jun 1, 2006 9:26:20 AM](#)

I have no problem with recess. The problem is that in elementary schools there are too many interruptions to learning. We have foreign language instruction for one hour each week, which by the way is not evaluated/graded. What's the point if it isn't evaluated? It is simply an interruption. Physical education three times a week, music, art, assemblies, picture days, bus evacuation drills (twice a year), etc. all add up. Now add to this an ever increasing demand of high achievement on high stakes testing, NCLB, closing the achievement gap, so when do we have time to prepare kids for tests and the real-world? Recess is not the problem. We must decide what's important. If students are expected to pass high stakes tests and achieve at the same academic levels then something has to give. You only have so much time in a school day. You can't have your cake and eat it too.

Posted by: Virginia Elementary Teacher | [Jun 1, 2006 9:25:46 AM](#)

I would not send my child to a school that did not provide adequate recess periods.

Posted by: Steve A. Jones | [Jun 1, 2006 9:24:34 AM](#)

Recess is vital to mankind. Honestly everyone should have recess, from children to adults, kind of like in Europe. Give everyone at least 1 to 2 break in the day. So the work day is a little longer, with a recess break, everyone can relax for a minute, forget about work, even take a nap; there was a reason we had to take naps as a kid.

Posted by: DubC | [Jun 1, 2006 9:21:17 AM](#)

i am a physical education teacher in old bridge, nj. if these kids dont get any recess they will not be able to pay attention in class. Recess lets them blow off some steam. it shows them that you can have fun not by just sitting on your tush and playing video games! If you give them time to have fun during school time they wil then keep up the physical activity after school.

Posted by: adam klein | [Jun 1, 2006 9:18:27 AM](#)

Exactly how long can an adult's attention be kept? Why are breaks permitted in the workplace? It's because everyone - adults and children - need time to let loose. Kids need to run off some of the energy building up while sitting in class.

Posted by: Pro Recess | [Jun 1, 2006 9:16:11 AM](#)

Greek dodgeball was always my favorite. Funny to watch your buddies (and yourself) go to the class directly after recess with a huge red welp on the face where somebody (usually your best friend) just nailed you in the face with that dark red rubber ball.

Posted by: Terry Archibald, USMC (Ret.) | [Jun 1, 2006 9:01:29 AM](#)

Come on they don't need any recess, they are children and play should be eliminated. Lets just send them to the sweatshops and have them work. We need to get these kids trained to serve the upper class so they can work 80 hour weeks night and day with no rest, that way the USA can compete with these other countries. Treat the children like cattle, stick em with a prod when they don't listen. We gotta keep the corporate engine running so the few rich can continue to receive their profits.

Man I am glad I was a kid when I was a kid. I could play, I had free time. Please let children be children.

Posted by: Confused American | [Jun 1, 2006 8:27:13 AM](#)