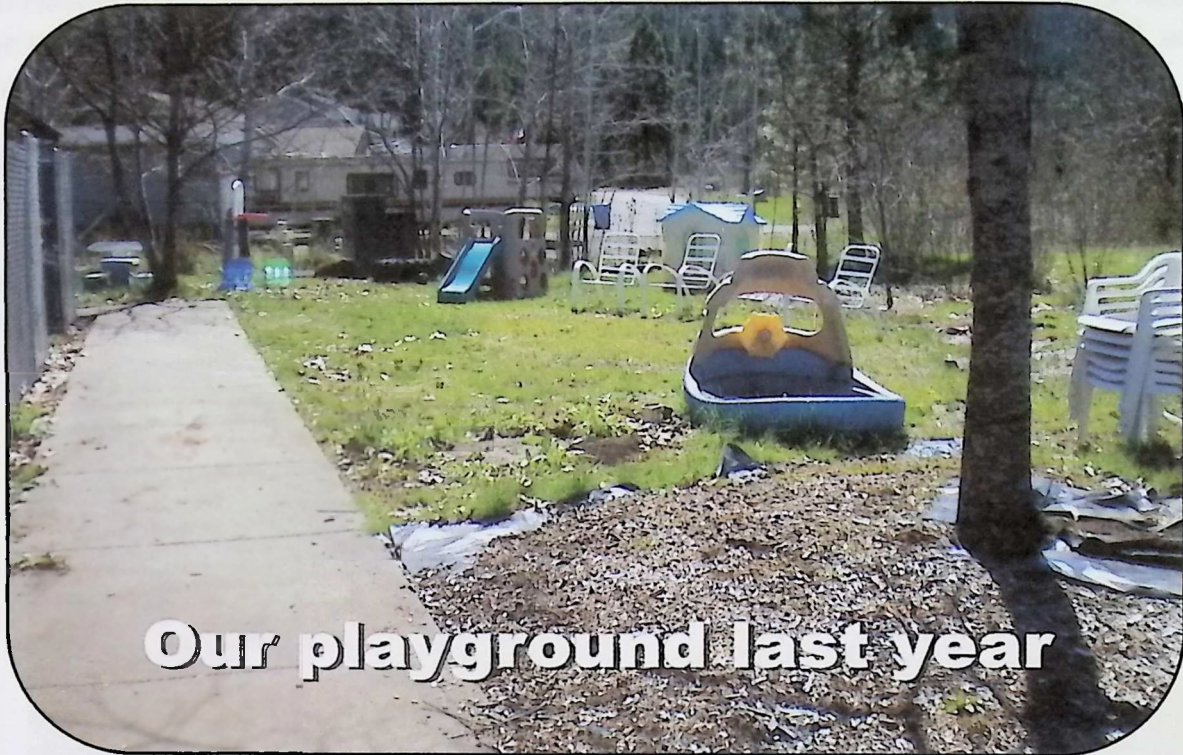


WE'RE BUILDING A NATURAL PLAYGROUND FOR YOUNG CHILDREN



Our playground last year

Enriching the preschool playground has long been a goal of mine. There wasn't really space for large equipment to play on in our Back yard. Research on how to build a playground in a small space, led me to the latest ideas concerning how to build a Natural Playground rich in activities that would stimulate children to do things and act on their ideas. Components of children's play that should be included in a Natural Playground include a **Sand Pit**, a **Bike Area**, **Shady Nooks**, **Small Animals**, **Water Play**, **Gardens**, interesting **Bits and Pieces** for construction, and a **Place to Gather** as a Group. This seemed like the kind of back yard that would fit our community and help our children develop their brains and bodies.

Last year The *Carpenter Foundation* gave us a grant to support parents and community members in building a Natural Playground. My dream is slowly taking shape.



Children help to plant.



Measuring a floor for the house