

## **Playground Blessings: Nicole Miller, TLC Child Center Director**

God of all creation, we give you thanks for the gifts of rest, play, fun, smiles, and laughter. As we bless this playground, may your Spirit be placed upon it in abundance, that all who encounter it might know your love.

### *AT THE FRONT GATE*

God of welcome, you open your arms to all beloved children. Ensure the safety of this and every entrance gate for all children who play inside this fence. Create in us all a community that does not block off your love from the world.

God of welcome, **BLESS THIS PLACE.**

### *AT THE SHED*

God of shelter, you are our cover on a hot day, you are our shelter in the storm. Use this space of storage to cover all those toys that need a safe space to rest. Cover each of us in our own lives as you have promised.

God of shelter, **BLESS THIS PLACE.**

### *AT THE SANDBOX*

God of formation, you created humanity from the dirt and sand of the Earth. Encourage all who enter this sand box to connect with these very supplies from which we have been formed.

God of formation, **BLESS THIS PLACE.**

### *AT THE TODDLER PLAYSET*

God of fun, you call us to times of rest and joyful living. Increase the joy of any toddlers who play on this playset, that they may be safe while basking in the joy of fun and friendship.

God of fun, **BLESS THIS PLACE.**

### *AT THE SWINGS (Both sides)*

God of wind, your Spirit moved over the waters of creation as a mighty gust. Create in these swings an opportunity to remember that your Spirit, the wind in our hair, the breath in our lungs, is always with us.

God of wind, **BLESS THIS PLACE.**

### *WITH THE MULCH*

God of safety, you catch us when we fall and help us when we are in trouble. Let this mulch provide safety and security for all who run, jump, and fall upon it. Build trust in all who play in this mulch that just as it will cushion their fall, you are always a safe place for us to land.

God of safety, **BLESS THIS PLACE.**

### *AT THE FOOD SHELTER*

God of community, you call us to build our tables longer and wider in welcome. Bless the food and snacks that are shared at these tables, and guide us to share all that we have with others, so that all may be fed as you intend.

God of community, **BLESS THIS PLACE.**

*AT THE BIG KID PLAYSET*

God of laughter, you adore each and every child exactly as you have created them. Shine from the face of each child who plays on this playset, that your light might be shown through their laughter, smiles, and playfulness.

God of laughter, **BLESS THIS PLACE.**

*AT ANY OTHER PLAY THINGS NOT ALREADY BLESSED*

God of innovation, you have created us with an ability to constantly find new ways of rest and fun. Cover each of these items of play with a spark of inspiration, so that the fun may always find new ways to happen.

God of innovation, **BLESS THIS PLACE.**

*ON THE CEMENT*

God of joy, you are present wherever we go. Even in the places where we have forgotten to recognize your presence among us, bless this space and all who enter it, so that the whole world might be filled with the same joy you have offered us through Jesus.

God of joy, **BLESS THIS PLACE.**

Let us pray.

God of all, when the disciples kept the children away from Jesus, he said, "Let them come to me!" Just as those children were called to you, blessed, and sent out into the world, we also ask you to call, bless, and send each of us as children of God. Encourage us in the knowledge that the reign of God belongs to little ones, such as these children. In the name of our God, lover, beloved, and love itself, **AMEN.**