



## **Godette Child Development Center/Coastal Community Action**

On May 15, 2010 a group of volunteers and staff gathered together to transform the Godette Child Development Center's playground, in Harlowe, NC, into an exciting nature filled area for all to enjoy.

A lovely arbor fashioned from bamboo with jasmine planted to grow along the arches opens a whole new world for the children of the Godette center to explore. Previously the playground consisted of one large climber, a shaded area and plenty of open space. After that Saturday, the playground could boast about its planter beds filled with flowers, the shrub, herb and tree lined exploring path leading to the reading circle aligned with natural cedar stump seats and a bench. When the children needed a little more exciting activity they could walk across the natural cedar balance beams and elevated stumps, placed just right for the preschoolers! A teepee made of bamboo sits to the side just waiting for the vines planted at its feet to grow and offer a place for their imaginations to grow! Just above the teepee sits a natural maze made of small dwarf boxwoods. Kids could wonder through and back for many moments of frolicking and fun. Additional trees and flowers were planted on the playground to provide shade, gathering places and countless natural wonders for kids to explore. During the planting, hummingbirds and butterflies were spotted taste testing the herbs and flowers.

Science and nature are permanently at center stage now at the Godette playground with many more activities and opportunities for the children to run, play, explore and learn. Putting the children in touch with more of nature and allowing them opportunities to gather and talk about the birds, bugs, butterflies and all things outdoors encourages them to get outside. They also like to run around and play once they get out there!

Congratulations to the volunteers and staff from the Godette Child Development Center for providing a more natural and inviting play space and for providing increased opportunities for physical activity to children at the center!



