

# Study: Green Space Around Schools May Boost Mental Abilities

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## *The New York Times:*

NEW YORK — Putting more green space around an elementary school may help students develop some mental abilities, a study suggests.

Researchers tested students repeatedly over the course of a year on attentiveness and working memory, which is the ability to keep something in mind temporarily for performing a task. Overall, students whose schools were surrounded by more green space improved more than pupils from schools with less green space.

The study tracked more than 2,000 students in 36 primary schools in Barcelona, Spain. The pupils were in the second to fourth grades when the study began.

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Sally Augustin, a psychologist in La Grange Park, Illinois, who uses research on how people react to their surroundings to consult on design of buildings, products and services, said the results made sense to her.

Read the whole story: [The New York Times](#)