



8 Keys to Inclusion

An inclusive playground is one that invites and welcomes everyone, not just the families who are typical. It should invite children and parents, those with sensory processing disorder, those with learning disabilities, autism, and people of all ages who use mobility devices. We are many people. They should all be invited through the design of the playspace.

Eight suggestions for welcoming everyone:

Sensory Rich

Incorporate activities that engage the auditory, tactile, proprioceptive, vision, and vestibular sensory systems.

The 'Coolest Thing'

Identify the piece of equipment that children will be most excited about. Ensure this play activity is accessible and usable for all.

Fence

Fencing is important for running or elopement, also known as wandering. A contained area for play is especially helpful for those on the autism spectrum.

Zones

Invite engagement between children of diverse abilities by locating similar types of equipment in the same area. The areas are easily found via orientation pathways, which guide people to different areas of play.

Social Play

Provide play events that will stimulate imagination as well as cooperative and parallel play.

Multiple Levels of Challenge

Choose play activities that provide graduated levels of challenge, ensuring all ages and abilities are actively engaged on the playground.

Routes and Maneuverability

Make travel routes around and through the playground wide enough for wheelchair users to pass, transfer onto equipment, and get close to activities.

Unitary Surfacing

Protective surfacing forms a unitary shock absorbing surface. This type of surfacing makes it easier for wheelchairs and strollers to enter and navigate the playspace.

In 2019, we'll release our newly updated Inclusive Play Design Guide that uses some simple guidelines to help create these spaces. To download the brochure or for more information and inspiration, visit:

Playworld.com/Inclusion

