

## DESIGNING PLAYGROUNDS FOR "EVERY BODY"

Positive play experiences are something every child deserves. With care in designing your playground, this goal can be achieved for children of all abilities. It's all about creating play for "every body"!

### Determining Location

Before proceeding with your accessible playground project, we recommend that you meet with the appropriate authorities to determine the best location. Be sure there is an accessible route to the site so users with mobility challenges can easily get to the playground. Ensure the area is reasonably flat with good drainage, easily visible for supervision and well-lit for safety after hours.

### Providing Access and Playability

Children with limited mobility can have access to almost the entire play structure via ramps that allow them to move easily from ground level up to the higher platforms. Ramped designs make the structure "wheelchair playable" but require more space and bigger budgets. Other options are to create a partially ramped structure or to provide a transfer station combined with accessible stairs, enabling users to move out of a wheelchair and onto the structure. Including a variety of ground level components is another way to provide accessible play.

### Choosing Components

With advice from your playground consultant, choose playground components that provide variety of play experiences from active play to sensory, social and imaginative activities. All kids love motion so be sure to include components that bounce, rock, spin or swing. Multi-user accessible swings are an ideal choice for group play.

### Determining Surfacing

Appropriate surfacing is an essential aspect in making your play structure accessible. Common choices include poured-in-place rubber, rubber tiles and engineered wood fibre. Combination surfacing is also an option and can help reduce costs.

Ask for help! Your experienced Blue Imp playground consultant is ready to guide you every step of the way.

