MAKING PLAY ACCESSIBLE & INCLUSIVE

Positive play experiences are something every child deserves. With care in designing your playground, this goal can be achieved for children of all abilities.

LOCATION & ACCESSIBLE ROUTES

Before proceeding with your accessible playground project, we recommend that you meet with stakeholders 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 & PLAYABILITY

Children with limited mobility can have access the entire play structure via ramps that allow them to move easily from ground level up to the higher platforms. While fully ramped designs allow both children and caregivers with mobility devices to access the structure, these require more space and bigger budgets.
Other options include creating a partially ramped structure or providing a transfer station combined with accessible stairs so that users can transfer from a wheelchair onto the structure to access elevated play components. Including a variety of ground level activities is another way to make play accessible for all abilities.

CHOOSING COMPONENTS

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

ACCESSIBLE 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.