

# Playground Resources

[www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

## **The American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM)**

This “not-for-profit organization provides a forum for the development and publication of voluntary consensus standards for materials, products, systems, and services.” Among its many links and reports, the ASTM provides information on selecting materials for playground equipment and how to apply existing standards to equipment. There is a fee for some ASTM reports.

[www.cdc.gov/ncipc](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc)

## **Centers for Disease and Control Prevention/National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC)**

The NPIPC strives to reduce morbidity, disability, mortality, and costs associated with injuries. The Injury Fact Book located on this website gives statistics on playground injuries, where they occur, and costs associated with playground injuries. This site also features research and reports on playground safety that can be downloaded free of charge.

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

## **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)**

This federal government organization’s goal is to protect consumers and provide education on injury risks and education to the public at large. This site contains an extensive list of 14 resources on playground safety including a Playground Safety Checklist for parents and Handbook for Public Playground Safety. Check out the -list of publications that can be downloaded free of charge from this site.

[www.injuryfree.org](http://www.injuryfree.org)

## **Injury Free Coalition for Kids**

This is a national organization made up of hospital-based, community-oriented programs that focus on injury prevention through research, education, and advocacy. This site contains information on all types of injury prevention including playground safety. Playground safety resources available include: parent’s safety checklist, safety presentations, brochures, and links to other sites on playground safety. These resources can be downloaded free of charge.

[www.kaboom.org](http://www.kaboom.org)

## **KaBOOM**

This website provides information on resources, trainings, and publications for communities seeking to build safe playgrounds for their children. Tool kits and considerations for developing grant applications for KaBOOM!’s Challenge Grant Program are provided. This national non-profit organization also has had success in pairing community and business partners to help provide financial support for playgrounds for targeted communities throughout the United States. Information and education resources on playground safety are available for free and for purchase on this site.

[www.playgroundsafety.org](http://www.playgroundsafety.org)

### **National Program for Playground Safety**

This site serves as a national resource for current education and resources regarding playground safety. This site also discusses in detail the S.A.F.E. National Action Plan for the Prevention of Playground Injuries and discusses the implementation of the plan at the national, state, and local level. Some resources can be downloaded free of charge. This site also features training programs and other education resources for purchase.

[www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org)

### **National Recreation and Park Association**

This national organization is an advocate for parks, recreation, and conservation of the environment. This site provides links to other sites on playground safety resources and education and reports on playground safety. This site also features information on becoming a “Certified Playground Safety Inspector” (CPSI) through the National Playground Institute, a program within the National Recreation and Park Association. CPSI’s are certified to inspect playgrounds for safety to ensure that each playground meets the national standards developed by the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)

### **Safe Kids Worldwide**

This global organization’s mission is to prevent unintentional childhood injury, a leading cause of death of children ages 14 and under. Check out **Injury Facts on Playground Safety** which covers these areas: background information on playground deaths and injuries, when and where playground deaths and injuries occur, who is at risk, playground injury effectiveness, playground laws and regulations, health care costs and savings, and prevention tips. Information may be accessed free of charge.

## Accessible Playground Guidelines:

1. <http://www.access-board.gov/play/finalrule.htm> **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities: Play Areas.**

Establishes minimum accessibility requirements for newly constructed and altered play areas. The guidelines 1) provide scoping requirements, which indicate *what* is to be accessible, and technical requirements, which explain *how* to achieve access and 2) cover play areas provided at schools, parks, child care facilities (except those based in the operator's home, which are exempt), and other facilities subject to the ADA. For more information, contact: <http://www.access-board.gov/>.

2. <http://www.access-board.gov/play/guide/intro.htm>  
**A Guide to the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas**

Provides help for designers and playground operators in using the accessibility guidelines for play areas. This guide is not a collection of playground designs. Rather, it provides specifications for elements within a play area to create a general level of usability for children with disabilities.

## Design Considerations for Accessible Playgrounds:

1. <http://www.ncaonline.org/playgrounds/play-areas.shtml> **Access to Play Areas: National Center on Accessibility.**

Designed to assist park and recreation professionals, designers and consumers in creating inclusive play environments for children with and without disabilities. Provides listing of frequently asked questions and overviews considerations for equipment selection and surfacing.

2. <http://www.ncaonline.org/ncpad/play4all.shtml> **Playgrounds for ALL Kids! By Cindy Burkhour, MA, CTRS, CLP: National Center on Accessibility.**

Provides helpful and practical considerations for planning and building an inclusive playground that meets ADA guidelines for play areas.

3. [http://www.ncpad.org/fun/fact\\_sheet.php?sheet=9&section=42](http://www.ncpad.org/fun/fact_sheet.php?sheet=9&section=42) and [http://www.ncpad.org/fun/fact\\_sheet.php?sheet=9&section=43](http://www.ncpad.org/fun/fact_sheet.php?sheet=9&section=43) **Accessible Design Fact Sheet and Creating Accessible Playgrounds Fact Sheet: The National Center on Physical Activity and Disability.**

Overviews specific requirements for design of accessible play areas and also addresses key arguments to address when advocating for accessible playgrounds.

## Resources and Models for Building Accessible Playgrounds

**1. Boundless Playgrounds.** <http://www.boundlessplaygrounds.org/>

Non-profit organization committed to helping communities through individuals, organizations, and other non-profit and corporate partners to create playgrounds where all children, with or without disabilities, can develop essential life skills as they learn together through play.

**2. Playground Equipment: National Center on Accessibility.**  
<http://www.ncaonline.org/products/index.php4?cat=Playground%20Equipment>

Provides a partial listing of manufacturers of playground safety equipment.

**3. Shane's Inspiration:** <http://www.shanesinspiration.org/supporters.asp>

Develops universally accessible playgrounds that allow children with disabilities to play with peers who are able-bodied in a fully integrated play environment.

**4. A Playground for Katie & Friends:**  
<http://www.katieandfriends.com/index.html>

Works to improve the quality of life for children and families in Central Virginia by eliminating barriers in play areas and by building a model playground for others to replicate to promote inclusive play among children with and without disabilities.

**5. All-Inclusive Playground in Columbus, Indiana:**  
<http://64.233.161.104/search?q=cache:s4JLI miMxroJ:www.irmca.com/pdfs/Freedom%2520Field%2520CSL%2520Release.pdf+Accessible+playgrounds+in+Indiana&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=8>

Recognized worldwide for state of the art architecture, Columbus, Indiana, worked as a community to create Freedom Field, a universally accessible and model playground that makes it possible for children and care providers of all abilities to enjoy play activities.