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## Designing for social participation- a Universal Design approach to making playgrounds for all

# Barriers that can prevent play in playgrounds





# Universal Design (UD)

Universal design means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be *usable by all people*, to the greatest extent possible, **without the need for adaptation or specialized design**

(UNCRPD 2007: 4).

***” There are swings and she can’t play on them, and there is sand and the wheelchair can’t go on it. She’ll probably have to just sit all the time on the side, so there’s no point her going to the playground”. (Boy aged 7)***



*“Once I became friends with a girl at the playground we sat on the swings and talked, but it was only once.”*

*“I’m always with an adult, I wish I could sit on the swings with the others.”*

*” I sit in the sandbox or I sit on the swing.”*

# PRINCIPLE ONE: Equitable Use or BE FAIR! ([Playcore.com](https://www.playcore.com))

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.





## **PRINCIPLE TWO: Flexibility in Use BE INCLUDED!**

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.



## **PRINCIPLE THREE: Simple and Intuitive Use** **BE SMART!**

Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.





## **PRINCIPLE FOUR: Perceptible Information BE INDEPENDENT!**

The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.



# PRINCIPLE FIVE: Tolerance for Error BE SAFE!

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.





## **PRINCIPLE SIX: Low Physical Effort BE ACTIVE!**

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.



## **PRINCIPLE SEVEN: Size and Space for Approach and Use BE COMFORTABLE!**

Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.







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