



play. site. sport.



KEY TERMS

Important Inclusive Playground Definitions to Know

Accessibility

Accessibility refers to the characteristics of products, services, and facilities that make them available to people with various disabilities.

Accessible Design

Accessible design is a design process in which the needs of people with disabilities are specifically considered.

Accessible Route

An accessible route is a continuous unobstructed path connecting all accessible elements and spaces of a structure or play area.

Clear Floor Space

The minimum unobstructed floor or ground space must accommodate a single, stationary wheelchair and occupant.

Compliant Design

Compliant designs, or compliant play structures, are made with physically disabled children in mind but not explicitly made for them.

Cross Slope

The slope that is perpendicular to the direction of travel.

Elevated Accessible Route

An elevated accessible route is the path used for connecting elevated play components.

Elevated Play Component

A play component that is approached above or below grade and part of a composite play structure consisting of two or more play components attached or functionally linked to create an integrated unit providing more than one play activity.

Ground-Level Play Component

A “ground-level play component” is a play component approached and exited at the ground level.

Inclusive Playground Design

Inclusive playground design is consistent with the concept of universal design. It recognizes everyone’s right to participate fully and contribute to meaningful play.

Play Area

A portion of a site or facility containing play components designed for children.

Play Component

An element intended to generate specific opportunities for play, socialization, or learning.

Ramp

A walking surface that has a running slope greater than 1:20. Designers should provide ramp access to 50% of play components.

Running Slope

The slope that is parallel to the direction of travel.

Transfer Station

A transition point between a mobility device, like a wheelchair, and the ground. It helps kids of all abilities access the play area.

Universal Design

The design of products and environments to be usable by all people to the greatest extent possible, without adaptation or specialized design.

Use Zone

The ground level area beneath and immediately adjacent to a play structure or piece of equipment designated by ASTM F 1487 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use for unrestricted circulation.