



Inclusive Play



Building Inclusion Through Play

The Start of a Movement

Like all children, three-year-old Zachary Blakemore loved to play. However, he was born with a rare genetic condition, Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease (PMD), which required the use of a wheelchair. When his mother, Natalie Mackay, took him to the playground, they would often encounter barriers that emphasized Zach's limitations and prevented him from interacting with other children.

Inspired by a visit to an accessible playground, Natalie set out to bring one to her own community. This led to the formation of Unlimited Play in 2003 and, after organizing and fundraising for several years, Zachary's Playground opened in Lake Saint Louis, Missouri.

But the mission didn't end there.

Today, Unlimited Play stands as a premier non-profit organization dedicated to building inclusion through play. Though Zach passed away peacefully in 2021, Natalie ensures his passion for play lives on through every project. By rallying communities around a higher set of values and common cause, Unlimited Play is able to cultivate greater empathy, respect, and dignity among the next generation.





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Partners in Play

Inspiring Change Together

Since forming a partnership in 2016, Little Tikes Commercial and Unlimited Play have embarked on countless initiatives. In addition to designing inclusive equipment and play spaces, we collaborate on a variety of special programs to support customers like you.

Together, we can create communities where limitations are forgotten, and differences are celebrated!



Click to watch Natalie's Welcome video.





Jacob Tyler Vollm
JAKE

Jake dreamed of growing up playing sports but early on he was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. The disease weakened his muscles, but not his spirit! Jake became the greatest sports fan, cheering and dreaming of broadcasting for all who played the game he loved. Jake's dream was for all kids to experience the thrill of being a player.

Jake passed away in 2012 at age 19. This playground is dedicated to Jake and ALL kids who shared Jake's dream - no matter their ability - to be on the field as a player, side-by-side with their peers.

Inclusion Beyond Imagination



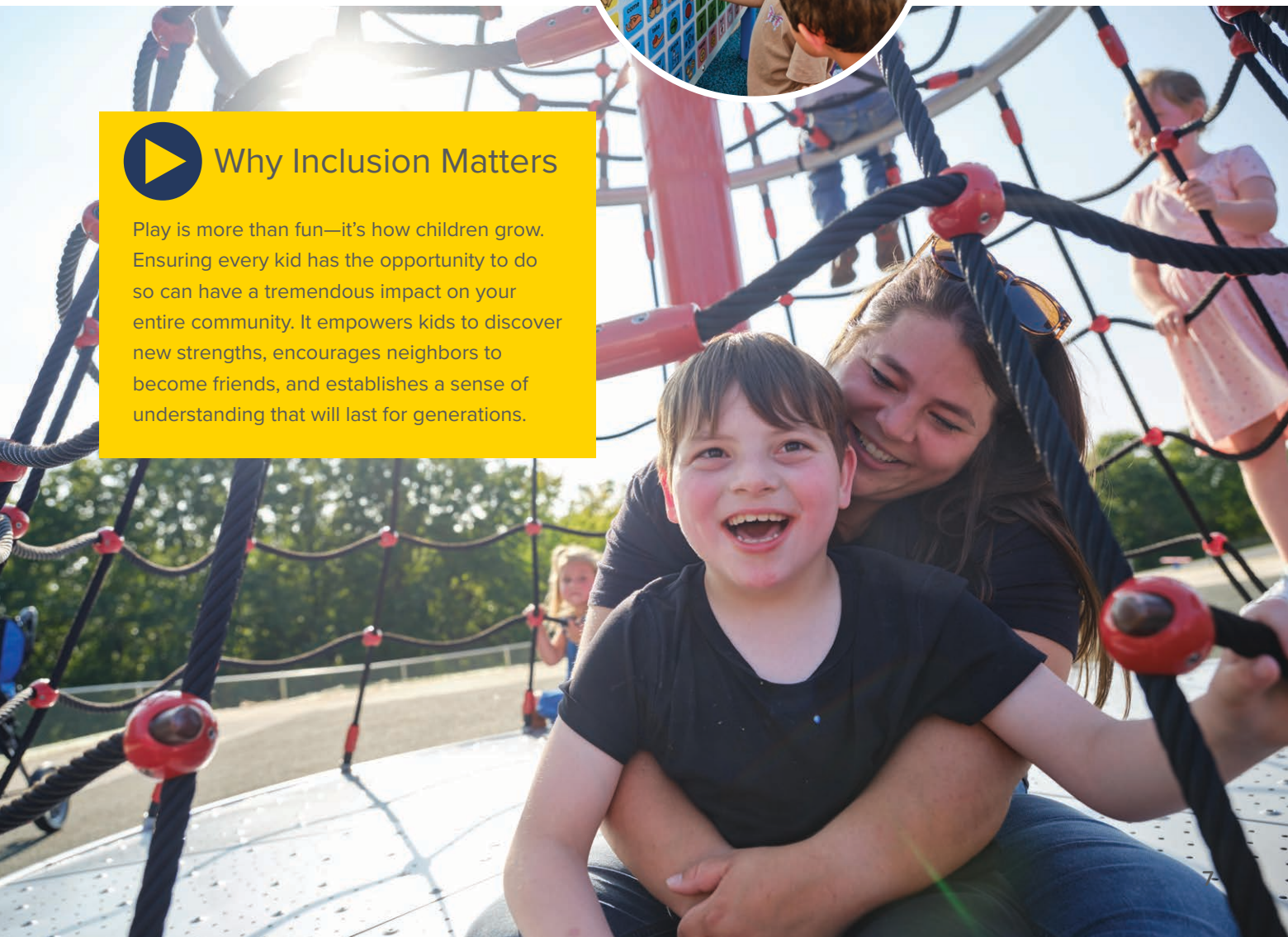
Making Play a Reality for All

Inclusive play is when people of all ages and abilities experience fun, wonder, and growth together. Through our partnership, we achieve just that—ensuring every kid—and kid at heart!—has the chance to benefit from imaginative play.



Why Inclusion Matters

Play is more than fun—it's how children grow. Ensuring every kid has the opportunity to do so can have a tremendous impact on your entire community. It empowers kids to discover new strengths, encourages neighbors to become friends, and establishes a sense of understanding that will last for generations.





How We Design for Inclusion

All of our inclusive playgrounds are created with the following principles in mind:

- A Imaginative Design:** Pretend play is crucial to every child's development, providing opportunities to practice their creative, cognitive, and social skills.
- B Social Inclusion:** From sharing common interests to experiencing a sense of belonging, inclusive playgrounds serve as meeting places where everyone can actively participate in the community.
- C Independence:** By incorporating unitary surfacing, fencing, ramps, and shade into a playground's design, we give all visitors the ability to move freely throughout the space.
- D Active Motion:** Swinging, spinning, and rocking are fun developmental activities that every child deserves to experience.
- E Graduated Complexity:** We rate our gross motor equipment as easy, medium, or hard, and ensure there is a range of challenges available so that every child can develop new skills at their own level.





Our Standards

We offer three levels of inclusive playgrounds: Gold, Platinum, and Platinum+. Though each level has their own design standards, all allow kids of any ability level to play side-by-side together. For communities with a smaller budget or footprint, our Gold playgrounds ensure your design features the key principles for inclusive play. For communities with bigger inclusive dreams, our Platinum and Platinum+ playgrounds go beyond those principles to create an unparalleled inclusive

Gold Standards

- Unitary Surfacing
- Barrier Free Access
- Graduated Levels of Complexity
- At Least 2 Sensory Play Opportunities
- At Least 1 Pretend Play Opportunities
- Balcony Deck, Rocking Raft, or Together Glider (if structure is included)



Sensory Panel

Platinum Standards

- Unitary Surfacing
- Barrier Free Access to the Highest Deck Level
- Graduated Levels of Complexity
- Transition Decks to Slides with Contrasting Colored Kickplate
- At Least 3 Sensory Play Opportunities
- At Least 2 Pretend Play Opportunities
- Multiple Balcony Decks
- Parallel Play Opportunities
- Roller or Stainless Steel Metal Slides
- Quiet Zone
- Active Motion Play Opportunities with High Contrast Safety Zones



Quiet Grove

Platinum+ Standards

- Unitary Surfacing
- Barrier Free Access to the Highest Deck Level
- Graduated Levels of Complexity
- Transition Decks to Slides with Contrasting Colored Kickplate
- At Least 3 Sensory Play Opportunities
- At Least 2 Pretend Play Opportunities
- Multiple Balcony Decks
- Parallel Play Opportunities
- Roller or Stainless Steel Metal Slides
- Quiet Zone
- Active Motion Play Opportunities with High Contrast Safety Zones
- Deck Edge Markers
- Enhanced Wayfinding Path with Tactile, Visual, and Sensory Cues
- Communication Boards
- Fully Fenced Perimeter
- Shade



Roller Slide



Communication Board

Angie's Playground in Florissant, Missouri is a great example of a Platinum+ playground that creates the ultimate inclusive play experience for visitors of all ages and abilities. Read more on page 21.



Our Resources

We offer communities the following resources to ensure everyone can experience the magic of play for years to come.

UP North American Showcase Sites

Our Gold, Platinum, and Platinum+ certified inclusive play spaces represent the standard of inclusive play across North America. Communities that commit to building a Gold, Platinum, or Platinum+ inclusive playground will receive unprecedented support from Unlimited Play in areas such as marketing, fundraising, and outreach for no additional fees.

Gold Playgrounds

Best for communities working with a limited footprint or budget.

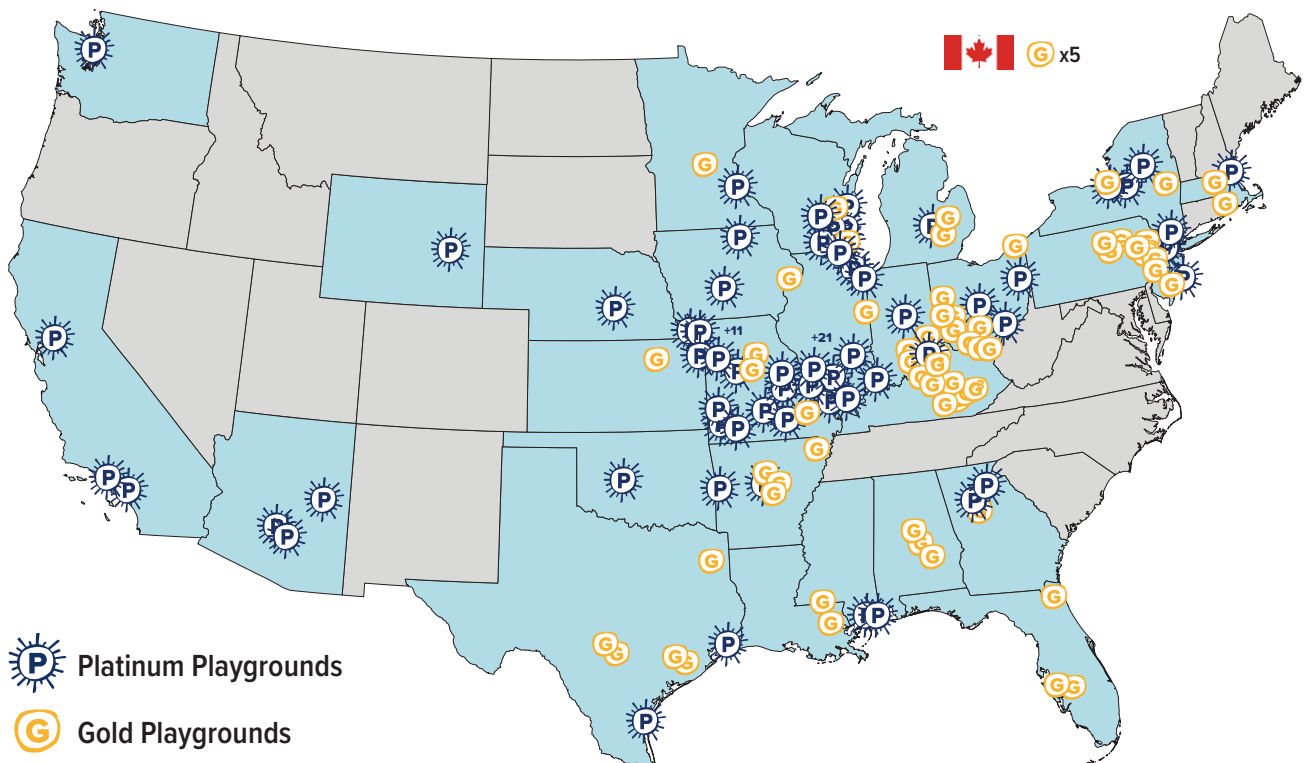
Platinum Playgrounds

Perfect for communities looking to achieve big inclusive dreams.

Platinum+ Playgrounds

Ideal for communities wanting inclusive design above and beyond imagination.

Over 165 Unlimited Play Playgrounds!

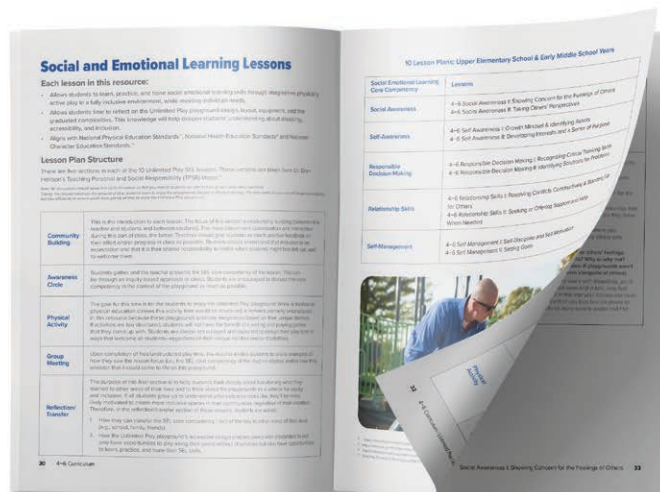
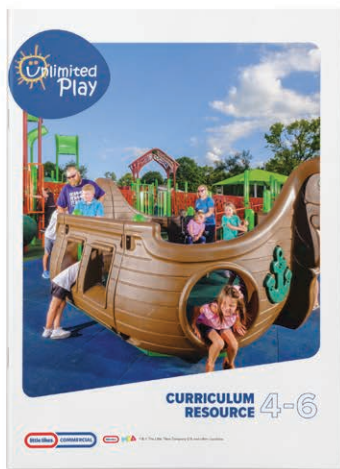




Unlimited Play School Program

Unlimited Play Curriculums provide a framework for K-12 instructors to help students of all abilities develop their social and emotional skills. From social awareness to effective communication, these guides are filled with age-appropriate activities that empower students to form meaningful, long-lasting relationships in their communities. All lessons meet the **5 National Standards for Physical Education** and the **8 National Standards for Health**, as well as support the **11 Principles of Character Education**.

Learn more about our School Program at UnlimitedPlay.org



Continuing Education

From the how's to the why's—discover everything you need to know about inclusive play! Our continuing education courses are available for free through our online learning management system, or live through Zoom. All courses are approved for accreditation through ASLA's Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System (LA CES).

Start learning today at LittleTikesCommercial.com/Continuing-Education







An Inclusive Pitch

& the Grand Slam That Followed

How does a rough sketch and a dream become a fantastic playground that is beloved in Wentzville, Missouri? It takes the right partner, an enthusiastic community, and a whole lot of dedicated and rewarding work.

Jim Vollmer had a vision for a new playground that would honor the memory of his son, Jake, and be an inspiration for all. Jake was like so many other little boys who dreamed of growing up playing sports—however, at an early age, he was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Knowing he would never play like his sports heroes, Jake became the greatest sports fan instead, cheering for those who played the games he could not.

Natalie Mackay was immediately enthused with Vollmer's vision, and together they met with Wentzville's Parks and Recreation Director. That one meeting eventually led to another with the Parks and Recreation Board, the Mayor, and the Board of Alderman. Then, almost exactly two years and four months since Vollmer first dreamed of a play space honoring his son, Jake's Field of Dreams opened to the community.

The playground includes a variety of custom, sports-themed structures that are accessible to children and caregivers of all abilities. Kids can scale baseball bats, exchange tickets at the interactive booth, and discover a concession stand scavenger hunt. Complete with football-themed ziplines that give every kid the chance to score a touchdown, no one is left watching from the sidelines.

Since opening, Jake's Field of Dreams has become not only a centerpiece of the community, but a destination for surrounding areas. The experience inspired Vollmer, and he joined the team at Unlimited Play soon after to share the same joy with countless communities.



Click to watch the video.



Quiet Grove

A Peaceful Retreat

Quiet Grove provides a calming escape for children who may feel overwhelmed by the playground's sights and sounds. When placed away from other activities, a child and caregiver can focus and relax together before rejoining the fun. It features field-tested sound reduction and five different play activities proven to help soothe the mind and body—spinning, pushing, clicking, and moving.



[Click to learn more about Quiet Grove.](#)



Turnabout Spinner

Everyone Gets a Turn

Invite people of all ages and ability levels to have fun with Turnabout Spinner! Handholds at a variety of heights ensure everyone can hold on tight, while the ground-level entry point allows those with mobility devices to easily step or roll on to join loved ones.



[Click to learn more about Turnabout.](#)



Rail-Rider

Gather & Glide

Take your playground's motion play to the next level with the Unlimited Play Rail-Rider! This piece of play equipment features side-by-side tracks, giving children an opportunity to glide by themselves or with a friend. In addition to providing a fun rush, the vestibular experience can help kids develop their spatial awareness and sense of balance.



[Click to learn more about Rail-Rider.](#)



Unlimited Play Panels

Delight the Senses

Inspired by the way kids naturally play with found objects, our Unlimited Play Panels provide children with unique opportunities to discover the world through their senses. These play panels offer interactive motion, encourage social inclusion, and inspire independence. Full of fun colors and interactive elements, children of all ability levels will be engaged to learn while experiencing the joy of play.

A Disco Party Panel

Get the party started with the Disco Party Panel! With easy-to-engage elements such as rollerballs, a convex mirror, a spinning center, and interactive clicking sound, this panel stimulates children's senses of sight, hearing, and touch.

B Living Art Panel

Experience art in a whole new way through sight, hearing, and touch! Push a button and hear a waterfall, flock of birds, or a howling wolf! With easy to engage plates, the inclusive Living Art Panel makes art come alive in a way that every child can experience.

C Silly Faces Panel

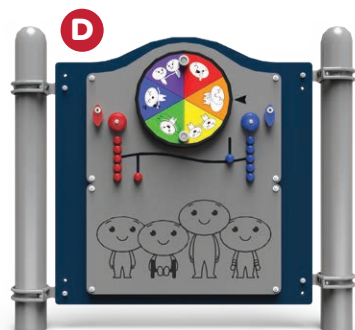
Identify the animals or become one! This panel encourages imaginative play with a variety of animal characters. Create your own story or make funny faces in the mirror; kids will be inspired to play in a way that's right for them. Great for developing recognition of animals, the Silly Faces Panel is sure to provide endless fun.

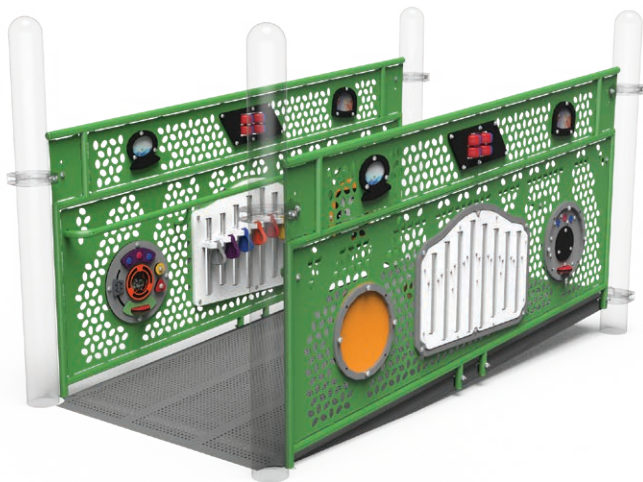
D Simon Says Panel

Spin the wheel to find out what Simon Says! Once a child finishes a task, they can ring the bell and keep track of their score with the panel's moveable buttons. This panel uses inclusive characters and activities to ensure everyone feels

E Scrambled Scales Panel

Play the notes to Twinkle Twinkle Little Star or create your own song with a friend! This panel's colorful design, musical chimes, and easy-to-use strikers are perfect to activate children's senses of sight and hearing.





Unlimited Play Nature Sensory Rails

Playful Sights & Joyful Sounds

Created in collaboration Unlimited Play, these sensory safety rails help welcome people of all ages and abilities to your play space. Each rail features a variety of activities that engage visitors' sight, hearing, and touch. Because they have a dual purpose as a rail and as a play event, these components are an easy way to add an extra level of skill-building and thoughtfulness to your design.

Unlimited Play Boards

Connection Made Easy

We consulted with experts to design the following boards as resources that facilitate greater and deeper connections between visitors of all ages and ability levels.



Unlimited Play Communication Board

Communicate more effectively with Unlimited Play Communication Board! Words commonly used on the playground are featured in each block along with a graphic that either instructs how to say it in American Sign Language, or clearly depicts the word. This allows better understanding to occur between visitors of all ages and ability levels, and it can even be used by caregivers to help teach young children new words.

Unlimited Play Inclusive Board

Plan your day at the playground using Unlimited Play Inclusive Board! This board details different categories—sensory, physical, cognitive, and social—and their associated activities. Charming graphics help illustrate examples of activities to try and skills to develop. This provides a clear path for anyone looking to experience a particular element or benefit of play. It's also helpful for kids of varying ability levels to find an activity that they can all enjoy together.





[Click to watch the video.](#)





Where Fun Flourishes

A Celebration of Community

After Angie Behlmann passed away at the age of 7 never having been able to play on the playground, her father, Gary Behlmann, became determined to create an inclusive playground for his community in Florissant, Missouri. Inspired by Zachary's Playground, Behlmann approached Natalie Mackay and asked if she'd be willing to take on the project.

"Gary and I worked for a long time behind the scenes," said Mackay. "His daughter had already passed away. She did not have the opportunity to play, and he simply wanted to give other families that chance."

Behlmann later lost his own life to cancer, but his family, Unlimited Play, and the community kept his mission alive. Mayor Tim Lowery made the construction a priority after taking office, having been involved in the playground's fundraising process since the beginning.

"We had already done the infrastructure," said Lowery. "The only thing that was missing for the park, and the community, was the playground."

Inspired by the community's support, the playground took on a floral theme representative of Florissant's status as The Valley of Flowers. Not only does it hold special meaning for residents, but also the team at Unlimited Play.

"To give back to the community where I was raised is such an incredible feeling," said Jim Vollmer, Project Manager for Unlimited Play. "Kids learn from each other, they accept each other, they play next to each other. When those barriers are broken down, magic happens on the playground."

"It's not just the opportunity to play," explained Mackay. "It's [kids] learning that [their peers with disabilities] can do so much more if the environment is just created for them. By creating an inclusive environment, we highlight all of the individual strengths instead of weaknesses."

Now, families like the Behlmanns come from all over Missouri to experience play together—whether it's enjoying the sensory fun of Roller Slide and Chimes, or spinning and laughing with friends.

Inclusive Designs

School-Age

We open up new possibilities for kids of all ages and abilities through inventive, inclusive designs that exceed the standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The following certified inclusive play structures offer easy play solutions that inspire everyone to learn and grow together.



Unlimited Play®
UP26-75129
INCLUSIVE PLATINUM





Unlimited Play®
UP26-75160
 INCLUSIVE GOLD



Unlimited Play®
UP26-75130
 INCLUSIVE PLATINUM





Unlimited Play®
UP26-75127
INCLUSIVE GOLD



Unlimited Play®
UP23-73443
INCLUSIVE GOLD





Unlimited Play®
UP25-74609
 INCLUSIVE GOLD



Unlimited Play®
UP26-75128
 INCLUSIVE PLATINUM



Inclusive Designs

Early Childhood



Unlimited Play®
UP26-75220
INCLUSIVE PLATINUM





[Click to watch the video.](#)

Inclusive Designs

Early Childhood



Unlimited Play®
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INCLUSIVE PLATINUM





Unlimited Play®
UP26-75125
INCLUSIVE PLATINUM



Unlimited Play®
UP26-75221
INCLUSIVE PLATINUM

Nobody Left Behind



Three Small Kids, One Big Impact

Designed to accommodate visitors of all ages and ability levels, Peyton Parker Lane Playground builds deep connections across the community of York, Nebraska and beyond.

The playground was spearheaded by families who have experienced the importance of inclusion firsthand, and features many of the inclusive products that have been created through our partnership with Unlimited Play—from Rail-Rider to the Quiet Grove. Sensory events are also located throughout the play space, with equipment such as Concerto and Roller Slide providing auditory and tactile experiences for all to enjoy.

“It’s a place that everybody belongs,” said Julie Hoffman, Project Manager at Unlimited Play and mother of Peyton and Parker Hoffman. “Everybody has a place here, and friendships can be cultivated that might not otherwise be cultivated.”

But it doesn’t end at the equipment—the playground’s design takes inclusion a step further by facilitating opportunities for parallel play, which not only allows kids of differing ability levels to play with one another, but caregivers as well.

“You’re inviting everyone in your community to be a part of something,” said Hoffman. “And you’re showing your community that you value everyone. From the veteran with a prosthetic leg to a mother in a wheelchair who wants to play with her kids.”

The playground has had an impact on the whole of Nebraska, drawing in families from across the state to experience the fun and growth of play with one another in ways they haven’t been able to before.

“I hope families that come here get to experience what ‘normal’ families get to experience every time they go somewhere,” said April McDaniel, mother of Lane McDaniel. “That’s a feeling of belonging. It’s a feeling of joy, and it’s a feeling of not having to leave someone behind.”





UnlimitedPlay.org

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