

HOW WE HELP

One of our initiatives is to support and build inclusive playgrounds within Alberta and to see all playgrounds whether new or refurbished be built with inclusive and accessible features so all children and community members regardless of ability can play and engage with their peers.

We work with communities, school groups and municipalities to assist in the design and development of inclusive playgrounds that promote dignity, independence, understanding and acceptance among all children. By offering our support we bring ideas, research and funding to assist these projects to make sure that every child has an equal right to play.

WE SUPPORT THROUGH:

- 1 Playground Design
- 2 Project Management
- 3 Financial Management
- 4 Fundraising and Grant Writing
- 5 Best Practices, Research and Innovation
- 6 Community Outreach



Creating Accepting, Supportive, Inclusive Communities

Variety - the Children's Charity of Alberta supports children who are facing physical, developmental, emotional or learning challenges, through education, advocacy, and community outreach.

In collaboration with other service delivery organizations we are creating supportive, ability diverse communities that address safety, inclusive and accessible environments and supports the growth and development of children with specialized needs to gain greater independence and positive life experiences.

At Variety Alberta, the initiatives that we engage in advocate for inclusive communities where every child has equal rights and equitable access to resources so to be able to participate fully in society.

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Creating Inclusive Communities Through Play and Playgrounds



**Every child has the right to be active,
be social and belong!**



variety[®]
the children's charity
Because ALL kids matter!

An inclusive playground is more than the equipment that is placed in it. An inclusive playground considers the entire experience of play for all users of the space and promotes dignity, understanding, and respect among all children including children and community members with ability diverse needs.

The below are considerations when designing a playground. For a more comprehensive breakdown, please visit our website at www.varietyalberta.ca.

- 1 Getting to the Playground:** The design of the environment leading to a playground is an important consideration so people can safely and easily access the space. Considerations include accessible parking; clear signage; paved, level pathways; and access to transit routes.
- 2 Getting On and Around the Playground:** Choose surfacing that is accessible for any user such as pour in place rubber or engineered wood fiber. These provide a level and safe surface for all mobility devices and help eliminate trip hazards. Colour can also be added to the surfacing and can help guide the user through the playground. Pea gravel and sand are difficult to move in and cause huge barriers for mobility devices.
- 3 Play Experience and Social Inclusion:** Choose equipment that offers physical development; sensory stimulation and movement. Create spaces that encourage creativity, imaginative play, and social interaction. Make sure to choose equipment with transfer points. Ramps alone do not offer play value for children using mobility devices. Make sure to add ground play features and interactive panels where ramps exist.
- 4 Amenities and Facilities:** Create quiet spaces, incorporate shading and add accessible tables and benches for rest opportunities. Ensure washrooms and water fountains are accessible for people of all ages and need.

There are many ways to build inclusion into a playground that creates an interactive and meaningful play experience for everyone.



Visit www.varietyalberta.ca to learn more about incorporating inclusion into a playground design .