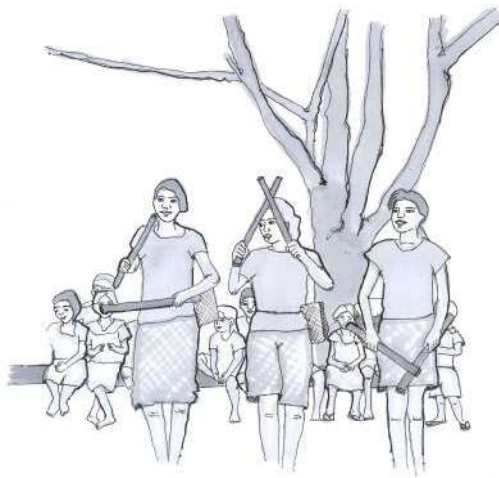
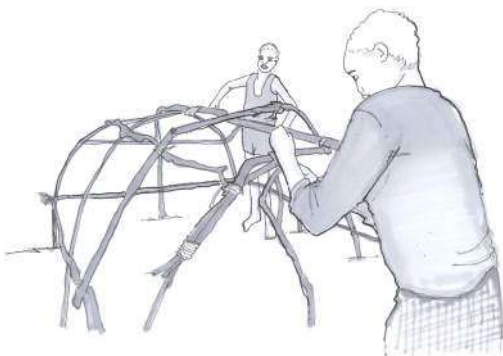
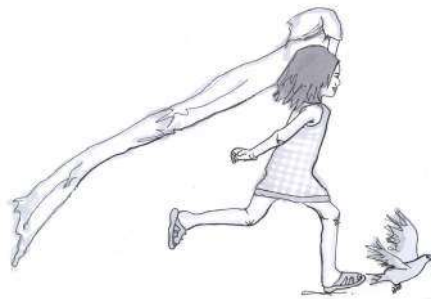


Tips and Strategies

Diversity in Types of Play

Make sure that there are many types of play. A list of these types can be found in the Five Step Manual in the design section. Diversity is the key in designing a good playground.

Children are all explorers and they are learning about their world. The more types of exploration that can happen on the playground the more excited children will be to explore it and the more often they will return. Some forms of play require a separate space and others can be mixed together. It is best to try and overlap as many of the types of play as possible. The more the types of play overlap, the more opportunities for children to interact with each other. (Renet Korthals Altes)

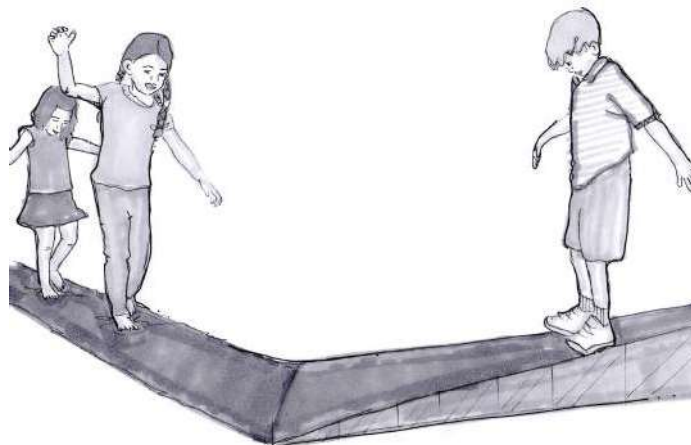
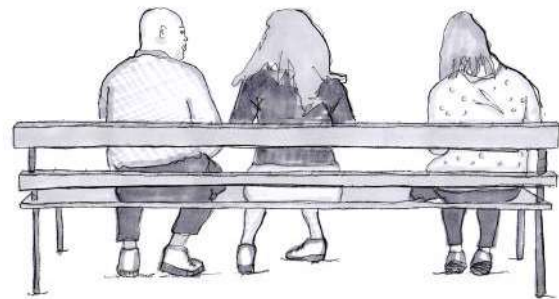


Each Feature Should Have a Scale of Difficulty

The way we think about the world influences the way we design. Humans think in categories in order to make it easier to deal with the diversity of the world, but if you look around, you will find that diversity and difference reign. The rainbow may look like 8 colours, but actually it's just a million shades right through the spectrum. All children exist on a spectrum of abilities, and as you design the playground, think about scales of difficulty. Each feature should be designed in such a way as to have several overlapping scales of difficulty. A rock climbing wall is a good example of a feature with a scale of difficulty. A rock climbing wall has several levels of difficulty all existing on the same wall. A beginner and a pro will be climbing next to each other and learning from one another. The features in an inclusive playground should have this same effect. Children on different spots on the scale of abilities should be able to play next to each other and learn from one another. If each element has something for everyone, then children will have more opportunities to interact and develop play that incorporates everyone. (Renet Korthals Altes)

Seats for Caretakers

Include seats for caretakers that are comfortable, located where they have a good view of everything happening on the playground, and close enough so they can intervene in case of emergency. These seats allow the caretakers and parents to have a moment of rest while the children are independent and exploring the playground.



Use Site Features to your Advantage

Make a list and map of:

- + Changes in the level/ slope

These can add interest and allow you to make portions of the playground accessible without a lot of extra money.

- + Location of trees and other natural features on the site.

- + Built elements like walls, concrete slabs, etc.

These features should be looked at as gold to mine instead of obstacles to avoid and or remove.

