



# The Playground

# STARTER KIT

8 DIY  
DESIGNS



Build anywhere with local tools,  
materials and skills

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# Welcome

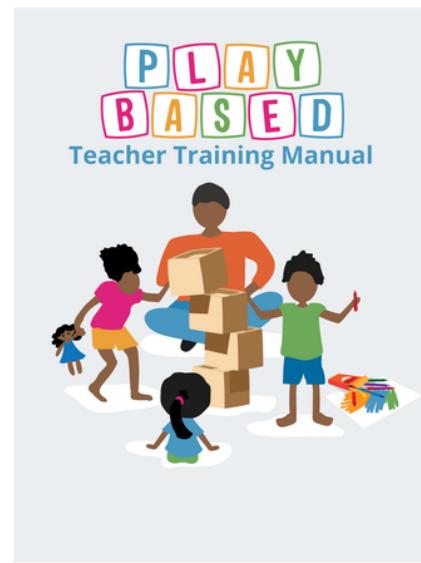
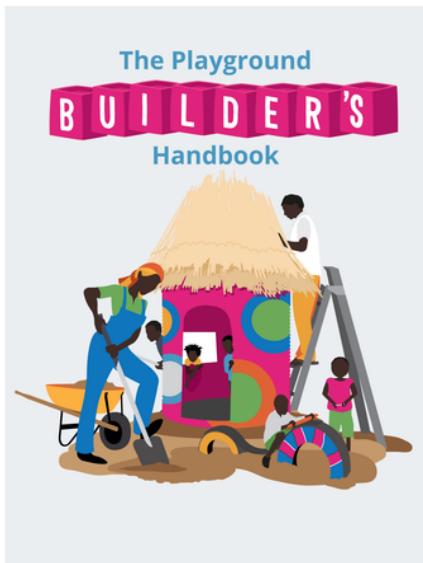


Welcome to Playground Ideas! We exist to support anyone, anywhere build a space for play using only local tools, materials and skills. Since 2007, we've supported over 1200 communities in 75 countries to build playgrounds, impacting over 600,000 children.

How? By providing free resources anyone, anywhere can access. On our website you'll find over 150 DIY designs with full step-by-step instructions as well as a whole suite of manuals covering everything from playground safety to inclusive design. This design kit is just a taste of what you'll find online.

You can access all our resources by creating a free account at [www.playgroundideas.org](http://www.playgroundideas.org). Inside, you'll be able to start a page for your project and save your favorite designs, create a crowdfunding campaign to raise money for your playground, connect with other playground builders in your region, and much more. If you have any questions along the way, don't hesitate to contact us at [info@playgroundideas.org](mailto:info@playgroundideas.org). We can't wait to see what you build!

A screenshot of the Playground Ideas website sign-up page. It features a pink header with the logo and navigation links: Build a playground, Browse Projects, Why it works, Who we are, Get involved, Donate, Log In, and Sign Up. Below the header, there's a section titled "What you get when you join" with icons for Crowdfunding, Manuals, Designs, and Our Support. There are also sections for signing up with email and social media (Facebook, Google, Twitter). A "CREATE MY ACCOUNT" button is at the bottom right.



Log onto  
[www.playgroundideas.org](http://www.playgroundideas.org)  
to explore all our  
resources





# Let's Build a Playground

This design scheme puts together some of our favorite, time-tested, low-cost elements into a beautiful space that inspires active, imaginative, social, creative, and open-ended play.

Hop onto the balancing standing see-saw, which can accommodate many kids at once. Ahead you'll find the sandpit - a rich sensory environment that promotes fine motor skills, eye and hand coordination, and creativity and imagination. Just behind, you'll find a pretend play scene, complete with a small shop, a couple motorbikes, and a small garden.

Pairing the garden with the sandpit and pretend play area allows kids to add leaves, flowers and sticks from the garden into their sand play, or bring the elements into their shop to "sell." Tucked away under the trees is a line of hammock swings, and steps away is a simple half-tire tire grid that can host an outdoor classroom while also providing hours of fun just jumping to and fro. Simple earth mounds ring the site, creating a sense of enclosure and a super low-cost element to run up and down and up and down.

The site was designed with a small preschool in mind, but it's adaptable to different ages and group sizes. In this design kit you'll find the DIY step-by-step plans for each element, as well tips and advice for adapting the design to your own space and needs.



# Site Plan



**1. Swing Truck Tire Hammock**

**2. Sensory Garden**

**3. Motorbike**

**4. Shopfront**

**5. Balance See Saw Hybrid**

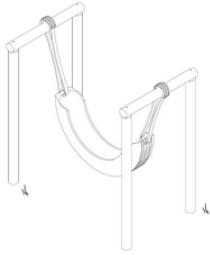
**6. Earth Mound Small**

**7. Sandpit Double**

**8. Half Tire Square**



# Elements



## Swing Truck Tire

**Hammock** - A rocking hammock is a corner of peace and calm on the playground. Kids will love swaying & chatting, or even taking a nap.



**Sensory Garden** - incorporate plenty of textures, colors, and smells into your playground with this simple garden structure.



**Motorbike** - Vroom vroom! This imaginary play element is a hit with kids around the world.



**Shopfront** - A market? Hair salon? Mechanic? You choose. Try painting it up to look like a real shop in your community.



## Balance See Saw Hybrid

A balance beam with a twist! These planks see-saw in a fun cause and effect movement.



**Earth Mound Small** - Every playground should have hills! Add dramatic height and dimension to your space, and a low cost feature.



**Sandpit Double** - Sand play is an essential part of any playground for young children - it provides hours of open-ended, tactile, creative play.



**Half Tire Square** - This element is easy to build and leaves itself open to children's imagination. In no time they'll be creating their own games and rules.

Find the step-by-step DIY plans for these elements in your kit folder.  
Explore 150 others at [playgroundideas.org/designs](http://playgroundideas.org/designs).

## Crowdfunding



Use our online platform to raise the funds you need to make your dream playground a reality!

## Manuals



From playground building to teacher training to inclusive design, we've got you covered!

## Designs



Over 150 designs anyone can build anywhere. Complete with DIY step-by-step instructions.

## Our Support



We're here to help you every step of the way! Feel free to drop us a line at

[info@playgroundideas.org](mailto:info@playgroundideas.org)

# Join Us

We hope our "Low Cost Starter Playground" kit is a great resource for you. Be sure to create an account at: [playgroundideas.org](http://playgroundideas.org). There you'll find everything you need to help you build a playground from local materials, tools, and skills.

We can't wait to see the amazing playground you build. Please email us some photos when you are done!

We would love to hear from you. If you have questions, collaboration ideas or just want to chat through details for your project, we are here to help via email or Skype. Let's talk!  
- Marcus (Founder)



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