



## NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR PLAYGROUND SAFETY

December, 2011

### Playgrounds Are For Everyone!

One of the personal, reoccurring issues for students with a disability is being an outcast. Most people would assume this feeling would come from the way other students treat them; however, lack of accessibility is also a main contributing factor. This could include transportation, seating, and probably most importantly in the child's eyes, recess or free play.

Recess is supposed to be a time for children to express themselves through play and is crucial to intellectual development. Why should students with a disability be subjected to those experiences? There are few playgrounds, as little as 5 percent, that are handicap accessible. The few that are have limited elements capable for the disabled community usage. By law, according to the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA), recreational facilities, including playgrounds, are among the required facilities which must comply with the accommodations of accessibility to individuals with disabilities. Some implementations on playgrounds for children with disabilities could include:

- Wheelchair ramps
- Elevated sand or water stations
- Wheelchair accessible sandbox scoop
  - Transfer decks
- Shallow steps for mobile impaired, but not restricted to wheelchairs
  - Panels such as clock, maze, or gears

**\*Although these are good additions to encourage inclusive play, assuring disabled students are getting the opportunity to play with other students is crucial!**

### Take Action!

For more information on the ADA regulations, NPPS offers a CD-ROM. This product is an advocate that play is a universal right. The purpose of the CD-ROM is to help the public understand how to comply with the American's with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) for playgrounds, including understanding the ADA, learning how to design inclusive play, and being aware of the additional technical requirements for playgrounds. This CD-ROM is \$25.00 and can be purchase through the National Program for Playground Safety.



*NPPS Wishes  
You a Merry  
Christmas  
and Happy  
Holidays!*

