BEST PRACTICES FOR ALL-INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUNDS

SURFACES

LIMITING USE OF WOODCHIPS, TIRE CHIPS, AND SAND
ACCESSIBLE FOAM SURFACE (rather than alternative ground surface)
CLEAR AND EVEN ACCESSIBLE PATHS (as opposed to paths with debris and uneven surfaces)

RAMPS AND ACCESS POINTS

WIDE RAMPS AND TURNING AREAS (as opposed to narrow ramps and turning spaces)
EXTRA HANDRAILS (rather than only one handrail)
RAMP GOING THROUGHOUT THE PLAYGROUND (as opposed to a short ramp which stops and prevents access to the rest of the playground)

This brochure was created by Marie Saldi through the Gopen Fellowship so that communities can create all inclusive playgrounds for children of all abilities.

For more information or for a list of all-inclusive playgrounds in Massachusetts, visit www.communityinclusion.org/inclusiveplaygrounds or www.mass.gov/mddc

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—Marie Saldi
**ACCESSIBLE SWINGS**

- **Swings that you can be transferred onto.** Swings that have a small ramp which you can roll on to.
- **Safety straps and directions for how to use the swing** (as opposed to swings without safety precautions).
- **Regulalry maintained** (so the swing is not broken or crooked).
- **Equal ratio between accessible and non-accessible swings** (instead of some swing sets which do not have any accessible swings or have a higher ratio of traditional swings to the number of accessible swings).

**SLIDES**

- **A large, easy to access entrance to the slide** (as opposed to a small space or a difficult transfer from the play structure).
- **Lower to the ground** (rather than too high or too steep).
- **Slides with sensory aspects such as those designed from rollers or with ridges**.

**ELEVATED COMPONENTS**

- **Limiting use of steps** (easy access points).
- **Elevated components which are easy to wheel up to** (rather than components which are hard to reach).

**LEARNING BOARDS**

- **Multi-language**
- **Sign language**
- **Braille**

**GROUND COMPONENTS**

- **Ground components on accessible surfaces** (as opposed to putting ground components on inaccessible surfaces).
- **Lower ground components** (rather than components which are too high and difficult to reach).
- **Ground components which are easy to wheel up to** (rather than components which are hard to reach).

**PLAYGROUND SURROUNDINGS**

- **Accessible picnic and sandbox areas**