

Purpose & Considerations

• **play equipment is the traditional signature of a playground, and an option in the design of BSI Schoolyards**

- play equipment includes components designed to engage the whole body in a variety of ways - large motor skills, coordination, muscle strength, etc.
- play equipment provides opportunity to stimulate social skills, educational concepts, and collaborative play
- **the SY play equipment is a resource for both the school and**

the larger community and supports active healthy lifestyles

- when locating play equipment **consider the whole schoolyard** (balance with need for open areas and small spaces for seating, game tables)
- **site layout considerations:**
 - impact on neighbors (noise)
 - impact on indoor classrooms and the BSI Outdoor Classroom
 - site circulation, delivery, pick-up, parking, and fire lanes
 - visibility and sight lines
 - year around sun exposure & temperature fluctuations

• equipment selection:

- manufacturer / cost
- type of components
- number & age of users
- abilities of students
- color, aesthetics / novelty

• green practices:

material choice, sustainability & maintenance considerations, source of materials

• **innovative design for education use - play equipment has the potential** to support teaching, for example a slide may be used for teaching physics, etc.

• integrate natural structures & surfaces into schoolyard

Design Checklist - Equipment

- play equipment for:
 - skill building & challenge
 - coordination, muscle & bone strength, balance
- improve physical self confidence through: sliding, climbing, jumping, crawling, rolling, twirling, twisting, balancing, falling
- select components for:
 - play value, sustained interest & curiosity over time
 - degree of challenge & risk
 - judgement of limits
- safely accommodate required numbers of users
- age and ability appropriate & multi-use
- design options: consider a range of manufacturers:
 - scale & size
 - styles, costs,
 - exercise stations
 - backboards & hoops
 - panels tic tac toe, braille, etc.
 - other: tetherball, pingpong, poles for racket games
 - safety surfaces
 - colors & patterns
- provide for age range: 2-5, and 5-12; and all abilities (ADA)
- provide components for full range of activities & sustained interest
- review of color choices
- evaluate pros & cons of types of equipment & components
- considerations for shared use:
 - school and community
- green practices choices: materials & carbon footprint
- maximize educational value

Illustrations



separate play structure manufacturers and designs for younger & older students



exercise station / fitness cluster
(middle school age use)