



Planning a new playground can be confusing and a little intimidating. It's just not something most people have to do more than once. But that once... it's an education, isn't it?

There are ways to make it easier—and the first is to sit down and list what you really need, and what you want:

- ◆ **What ages are the children on your playground?**
Playgrounds are designed with different rules for different ages:
School Age (5-12)
Preschool (2-5)
Toddler (6mo –24mo)
Some designs can meet the rules for 2 age groups, let us know if you need this.
- ◆ **How many children does the equipment need to accommodate?**
If you have 50 children on the playground, the odds are good that a third of them will be running around, skipping rope, playing ball... so you need a playsystem that about 35 kids can play on.
- ◆ **How much room do you have for the play equipment? What's the size and shape of the area?**
Is it reasonably level, and dry? (If there's standing water before you put a playground in, there will be standing water *after* you put the playground in.)
- ◆ **Are there kinds of equipment you really want? Really don't want?**
For instance, swings are great play, but they eat up a LOT of room. Do you want swings more than you want a slide-climber-overhead ladder combination or a merry-go-round?
- ◆ **Realistically, what kind of fundraising can you do, and what budget can you support?**
The equipment is about 1/2 of the expense. Freight, installation and safety surfacing will generally equal the cost of the equipment—sometimes more.
Also, check to see if your organization belongs to or can join a purchasing cooperative or contract. Kidstuff or our reps are members of several contracts. Vendors on the co-ops have been vetted and are offering quality products (in this case playground equipment and installation) at negotiated low prices. The Co-ops allow you to bypass the bidding process, knowing you have a quality playground at the best price possible.

Once you're talking with a playground vendor, ask questions.

- ◆ Ask to see a written warranty; ask for references.
- ◆ Ask what all those phrases at the top of this page mean and how they apply to you—and how they apply to the play equipment they make.
- ◆ Ask where the equipment is made, and if the manufacturer has an environmental policy.
- ◆ Ask if they will change a design to customize it for your playground, and whether they charge more for this.
Kidstuff Playsystems and our reps will be glad to answer any question—about the equipment, about installation, about surfacing. A Kidstuff Playsystems rep will come to you, to see your site and talk with you about what *you* want in a playground. We have hundreds of IPEMA certified and ADA compliant designs, all of which can be customized to be right for *your* kids, so you'll know you're choosing well.



**Give us a call and ask us questions.
800-255-0153**



www.kidstuffplaysystems.com