**Better Playgrounds:**
Advocating inclusive play environments for all children in Hong Kong

Presented by Chris Yuen, Florence Chiu, Kathy Wong (Playright Children’s Play Association, Hong Kong)
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King’s Park Children’s Playground was redeveloped by the Urban Council in October 1989. Its concept and designs were contributed by Playright Children’s Playground Association.

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Why More and Better Playgrounds in Needed in Hong Kong

Public Housing Estates
>1,000 Play Equipment in approx. 137 Estates

Public Parks
>700 Children’s Playground
Understanding the Issues in Hong Kong

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Caregivers decide when, where and what children to play in the playground:

• At home - parents, grand-parents or housemaids

• In schools/special schools – teachers, social workers or therapists

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Children
By ‘children’ we mean children of all ages, stages, backgrounds and abilities.

Play
Children’s play is any behaviour, activity or process initiated, controlled and structured by children themselves; it takes place whenever and wherever opportunities arise.

Playground
A site such as park, reserve, small block of land or land adjoining other recreational or community-base facilities, specifically designated for play and including playground equipment.

Source: Notes on Terminology for Inclusive Play Spaces, Inclusive Play Space Guide by Playright

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Playright UNICEF Inclusive Play Project (2012-2014)

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 31
the right of children to engage in play

Inclusive Play Opportunities
- Children with disabilities
  - Parents / Teachers
  - Government
  - Stakeholders
- Professionals
  - Inclusive Play Spaces as a way to actualize

Inclusive Play Spaces as a way to actualize
- Inclusive Playground Guidelines
- Play Space Needs Survey Study
- Play Space Education

Inclusive Society

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Our mandate to promote Equal Opportunities for Play

Children with physical, mental, emotional and social disabilities have an equal right to play opportunities.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Children
Article 31, UNCRC (Leisure, play and culture): Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Article 30, CRPD (Leisure, play and culture): Persons with disabilities have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities on an equal basis.
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Target Audience: Stakeholders on Playground Issues

- Adults/Parents
- Playground Equipment Manufacturers
- Suppliers
- Contractors
- Playground Safety Inspectors
  - CPSI, RPII
- Playground Professionals
  - Designer
  - Engineer
  - Park Management
  - Facility Management
  - Risk Manager
- Playground Providers
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2012 - Experience Play

Public parks visited: 6
Nos. of participated schools or centre: 15

Children, Parents and Teachers: 736
Volunteers: 31
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2012 - Knowledge Sharing

Workshop: 126 (parents and teachers)

Parent Focus Group: 207

Participants: 145
(35 from the project)
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Employing Play for Special Needs Children

Questionnaire:

164
Findings:
• **Over 60 per cent** of children with disabilities play in playground less than once a week
• **Nearly half of the parents** ask for improved facilities

Recommendations:
The number of playgrounds should be increased in residential areas to reduce the traveling times for children with disabilities. In order to encourage the children with disability to carry out outdoor activities in a suitable playground, it is necessary to **put more effort into the design of an inclusive playground to fit for all types of users** especially those children with disabilities and their carers.
2013 - Awareness Building (Guideline Development)

What do you think about the Hong Kong’s public playground in the aspects of design, safety and management?

An inclusive play space aims to enable satisfying play opportunities for all children while accepting that it may not be possible for every child to access every feature or opportunity of the space.

Inclusive playgrounds address the needs of all people and accommodates everyone and challenges them at their own developmental level.
The inclusive play space drew upon the principle of **Universal Design**, which prompts designers of facilities taking the wide range of children’s physical and psychological abilities, children at different ages and of different body types into account.
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Place Making and Universal Design Playgrounds for ALL

Training
1-day seminar for Professionals

Training
3-day workshops for students

Design Competition
(select a real playground)
Open category & student category

Design Competition Exhibition
Showcase of winning design
with activities for families

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Typically developing children
• Children with neurological disabilities, e.g. Autism
• Children who have intellectual disabilities, e.g. Down syndrome
• Children who require wheel chairs or other medical equipment
• Children with physical disabilities
• Children with social and/or emotional difficulties
• ……. 
2014 - Empower Design Professionals (Seminar + Play Day + Sharing Session)

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2015 - First Ever Playground Design Ideas Competition in HK

Briefing Session: 90
Professional Entries: 25
Student Entries: 29

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Better Playgrounds Better Future Campaign: Inclusive Play Space Ideas Competition Exhibition and Award Presentation, Oct 2015

Exhibition visitors: > 4,000
Ceremony attendance: 150
Press Representatives: 12

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Government Department, Professional Bodies, University, NGOs, Sponsors, Rehab Organizations, Special Schools, Playground Practitioners, Interested Individuals ……

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Media Coverage Analysis for “Better Playgrounds Better Future” Campaign:

Magazine: 11, Newspaper: 46, TV: 1, Radio: 2, Online: 4
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2016 - Adopt of Winning Design in Tuen Mun Park

Site Area: 4,300 sqm.

Source: Photo courtesy of Architectural Services Department, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
2016 - Adopt of Winning Design in Tuen Mun Park

TWO public consultation sessions initiated by the government: 30 organizations participated

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What is Inclusive Play Space?

A place where children with and without disabilities or impairments can play together.

Source: Notes on Terminology for Inclusive Play Spaces, Inclusive Play Space Guide by Playright
The “Peak Tower” - Inclusive Playground Development for HK

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**Critical thinking:** It will NOT be a good model if children in the community cannot be real participated in this first Inclusive Playground in Hong Kong.

*Source:* Photo courtesy of Architectural Services Department, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
From our survey analysis, parents think “swing” is a must play provision in the public parks.
Our initiatives to increase the opportunities for Inclusive Play in Hong Kong!

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2017- Junior Playground Commissioner Incubation Programme

Consulted & Informed

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2018 - Opening of Inclusive Play Space at Tuen Mun Park

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmxzNy6HqGY
Thank You!

Download Inclusive Play Space Guide: 

Documentary Video “Our Playgrounds in Hong Kong 我們的遊樂場” on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVSDTCnEaF4

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