



PLAYGROUND AND OUTDOOR RECREATION EQUIPMENT

June 4, 2012

Janie O'Keefe
Program Director
Disability Connection
Gulfport, MS 39503

Re: Inclusive and Accessible Playground at Bruce Ladner Park

Dear Janie:

First I would like to thank you for the opportunity of working with the Disability Connection in creating a one of a kind inclusive and accessible playground for the children of Harrison County and surrounding areas. We are honored you selected us as your playground provider for submitting your Kaboom grant and in bringing about the reality of a truly fun place for children with disabilities. We are excited to be a supporter of the Disability Connection Resource Center and film, "Recreation for People with Disabilities" for those with disabilities to find ways to engage in community activities and especially recreation and play.

Landscape Structures, Inc. and Playscapes of Mississippi, LLC will be providing a listing of public playgrounds in Mississippi and throughout America that offer accessible features, so that both communities can access them locally and when they travel. We believe promoting your newly built Disability Connection Community Playground at the Resource Center is just one way your valuable programs will encourage replication across Mississippi. You will see our continued support in new, innovative products designed specifically for accessibility and inclusive play as well as frequent updates on new accessible sites.

Your ongoing persistent work at the Disability Connection, community outreach, education and other programs are key components in helping children overcome barriers of bias, fostering friendships and understanding about other children of all abilities. I know your personal experiences made this project so very important to you and to your ongoing work for the community.

This is the first playground in Mississippi offering the *Roller Table*, a great activity for kids with mobility impairments and allows deep pressure while working upper-body muscles, and the *OmniSpin Spinner* carefully designed with high-backed seating that provides vestibular sensory stimulation, encourages interactive play, is easy to enter from a wheelchair or walker, and makes spinning safe and fun for all children. In addition, the *Sensory Play Center* offers stimulating sensory experiences for children with autism and other sensory processing issues and is engaging in its shape as well as the panels it holds. Kids will also be pleased you included the *Oodle Swing*, a multiuser swing comfortably seating four to six children at once. The *Oodle Swing* has a transfer point from a wheelchair or walker, so it is great for building social skills and cooperative play. Those pieces combined with the rubber safety surfacing and pathways for easy access to each event make a real difference in the play experiences of kids who rarely have a chance to actually play at a playground.

Janie this project is an amazing accomplishment for many reasons, but your insistence for inclusivity and play value make it the **only** playground in the state to include all of these fantastic sensory-rich experiences on one playground. It was a pleasure to work with the Disability Connection and Harrison County to provide the equipment and design services for this special place to play for all the children and families of the community. Thank you so much for your vision, determination and kindness.

Sincerely,

Laurie Alley

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie Alley".

President
Playscapes of Mississippi, LLC

