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Play systems powered by a child's imagination.



## ages & stages of play

Snug Play is a versatile play product that allows children of different age groups to be engaged and participating in developmental play. Each age group will interact with the product entirely different than another, which means not only a new experience each time the children play with Snug, but a new type of play each year as they progress through childhood.

The chart below explains how children can use Snug Play to further develop skill sets in the 5 major learning categories.

This modular playground system works well for children in a wide range of ages. It is open ended and abstract, leading children to play at the level of development they fall within and challenge themselves to progress to new levels. As children develop and grow, their play advances and Snug Play can be appropriate at each level. Younger children (2-4) participate more on a physical level. They are learning how their bodies work by climbing, jumping and strengthening their core.

As children become older (4-7) imagination and pretend play emerge. It is during this period that storylines are acted out. They learn how to contribute and interact with others. Children who are ages 8-12 are continually testing the limits. They are learning how they can control and effect their environment and how others participate and change the dynamics of play. Children who have disabilities also follow these developmental levels, but they may not coincide with their chronological ages. Additionally, certain types of special needs hinder children's abilities to progress through these developmental levels. One example of this is children who fall within the Autism spectrum disorders have difficulty with abstract play. This includes imagination and pretend play.

### Early Childhood



### Lower Elementary



### Upper Elementary





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<b>Snug Play:</b> Developmentally Appropriate for All Age Groups	<b>Early Childhood</b>	<b>Lower Elementary</b>	<b>Upper Elementary</b>
<b>Social/Emotional</b>	Open-ended materials promote interactive, collaborative experiences that promote sense of self, conflict-resolution, and cooperation.	Independent free play promotes the development of self-esteem, independence, moral development, and the understanding of the viewpoints of others.	Responsibility for personal and social behaviors and opportunities for self-expression and understanding promote character development and friendships.
<b>Physical</b>	Moving, exploring, and acting on objects develop building, climbing, jumping, and running skills.	Lifting, moving through, and building promote motor planning, visual-motor coordination, and balancing skills.	Strength, stability, and whole-body awareness are developed through sustained higher levels of physical activity and complex movements.
<b>Sensory</b>	Sensory-rich experiences develop understanding of the distinctive features of objects, graphic symbols/patterns, and other stimuli.	Vestibular and proprioceptive movement opportunities develop understanding of how bodies move through space, body position, and how much force is needed for an activity.	Multisensory, hands-on opportunities provide ways to extend learning, promote understanding of academic concepts, and develop long-term memory skills.
<b>Cognitive</b>	Interactions that promote the understanding of cause-and-effect and encourage make-believe and imagination result in purposeful, goal-oriented play.	Manipulation of objects increases spatial reasoning, logic, classification, problem solving, and develops concept acquisition and the ability to symbolically represent concrete objects.	Opportunities to expand abstract thinking and apply academic concepts and knowledge occur during free, guided, and structured play.
<b>Communication</b>	Dramatic and constructive play provides rich language development that expands vocabulary, listening, and conversation skills.	Group experiences offer ways for children to use language in order to clearly express ideas, contribute to discussions, and follow and give directives.	Communicate effectively and learn how to influence others with expressive and receptive language.

Early Childhood

Lower Elementary

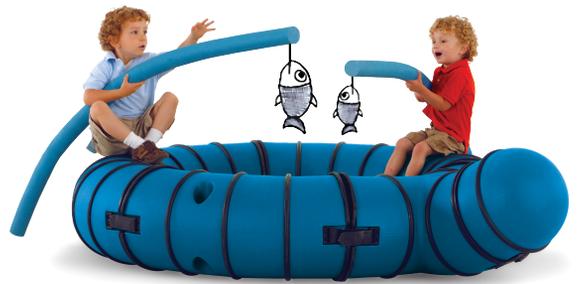
Upper Elementary





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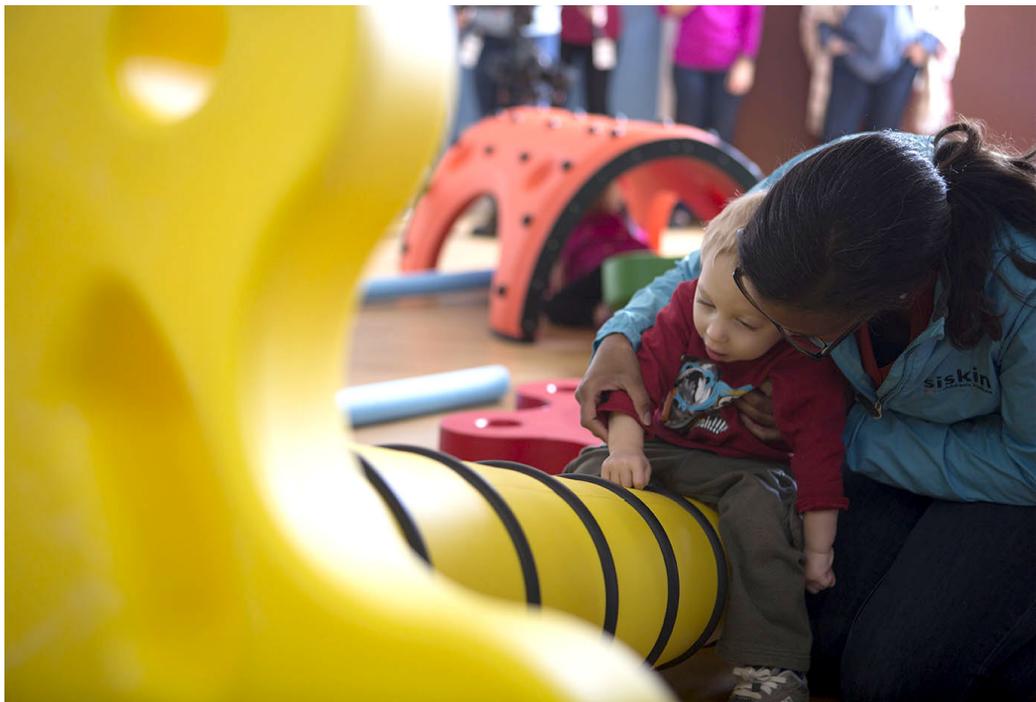


## Snug Play & Inclusion

**Snug Play** is an innovative playground system that promotes creative and social play. Its modular design lends itself well to inclusive play by enabling play to happen at different physical levels and allowing children to move and form the components to be optimally used. The components are large enough for many children to play together and incorporate many areas of physical, social, cognitive and sensory development.

Snug's unique design elements and social opportunities naturally fit into the philosophy of the National Lekotek Center and together can help promote inclusion of children with special needs into their family and community.

Snug Play can provide a means to inclusive play that is appropriate and effective for children who have disabilities and who are developing typically. Looking to the disability categories listed below, Snug Play can provide solutions to many of the playground issues children with disabilities may face.





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## Benefits of Snug by Disability Category

**Physical disabilities** All the different components of Snug are accessible from the ground. They are bold shapes with no intricate parts that would be difficult to manipulate for children with limited refined movements. The components are large and durable enabling caregivers to climb and support a child as necessary without the fear of the components giving under them.

**Cognitive disabilities** The open-ended nature of this modular playground system provides ample opportunity to incorporate fundamental learning, memory and sequencing skills into play. The large size and number of components enhance team building and problem solving opportunities. As children construct, they are learning properties of science and math, not from book knowledge, but real experience. Gradually add different elements to a child's repertoire of play to gently guide them to challenge their bodies and minds and progress to more advanced cognitive levels.

**Communicative disabilities** The open-ended nature of this playground system leads to imagination and creativity. It can be used as a stage for dramatic storytelling that helps develop expressive language, conversational turn taking and sequential order. Or the pieces can be moved to create imaginative landscape to act out storylines. Moving the individual structures requires two or more children which enhances cooperation and communication.

**Sensory disabilities** The moveable components provide children's bodies with heavy lifting opportunities to give whole body workouts. This heavy lifting provides proprioceptive input that is known to help children better focus and attend to a cognitive task presented after. The many textures of the components help children gather input and by verbally describing the texture can help to identify the various components. The colors of the individual components are bright and bold, yet not overwhelming and busy.

**Social/Emotional disabilities** There is no right or wrong way to play with Snug. It invokes curiosity and exploration without impressing rules and game play. Children can experiment in an emotionally safe environment with objects they can control and position. The Snug system helps present opportunities for children to work on social and emotional skill development. As they play, children can work together to solve problems, contribute to a group and practice leadership roles.

\* Information taken from the National Lekotek Center Report: "Effectiveness of Snug to Promote Inclusive Play," 2010





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## Physical Activity

Because Snug Play is so manipulative and can be configured in multiple ways, it's ideal for use in the Physical Education classroom or simply for active play that enhances children's health. Snug Play can be utilized for both "directed" fitness-enhancing activities such as the creation and facilitation of a challenge course that all participants engage in, or in more informal settings where children are physically active and involved in creative, self-directed play.

### Locomotor Skills

- ✳ Walking and running
- ✳ Hopping
- ✳ Jumping
- ✳ Skipping
- ✳ Sliding
- ✳ Leaping

### Non-locomotor Skills

- ✳ Bending
- ✳ Twisting and stretching
- ✳ Curling
- ✳ Swaying



### Professional Observations

"This kind of equipment gives kids the opportunity to play, as they can be creative and use their imaginations. One of the cool things about the Snug Play equipment is that it's non-competitive, so kids that are the 'real athletes' are going to build, create and have a lot of fun. What was interesting to see was that it also engaged the 'non-athlete,' and non-competitive children as well."

– Jan Connell, PE Teacher @ The Bright School – Chattanooga, TN

"We were able to take whole classes out and be fully engaged with 50-60 children, including those who aren't typically engaged or involved. Now they had something interesting to do, now they had something to build, something to cooperatively work together in doing. So as a result of that, their activity levels definitely increased."

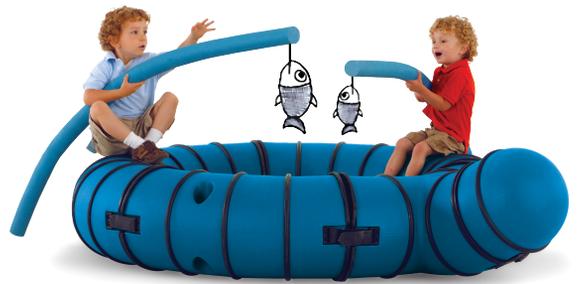
– Jim Blair, PE Teacher @ The Bright School, Ed.D, Health Education





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## Play in the Park

Introduce a unique type of unstructured play equipment for supervised public park settings or as a recreation center's way of providing a unique physical activity for multiple age groups. Snug Play can be utilized for both "directed" fitness-enhancing activities such as the creation and facilitation of a challenge course that all participants engage in, or in more informal settings where children are physically active and involved in creative, self-directed play.

## Perfect for Parks

- ✿ Festivals
- ✿ Special Events
- ✿ Children's Programs
- ✿ Therapeutic Recreation
- ✿ Supervised Parks
- ✿ Promoting Inclusion
- ✿ Early Childhood
- ✿ Challenge Course
- ✿ Physical Fitness



Some of SnugPlay's key benefits to public parks is the elimination of safety zones and the permanent installation requirement. SnugPlay requires **no** safety surfacing.

In addition to using SnugPlay in park settings, the equipment can also be presented at community centers, festivals, or special events. This all-weather play equipment can be enjoyed both indoors or outside.

Park directors also really appreciate that Snug provides a lot of creative play in a much smaller area or footprint. Do you have traditional play equipment on order? Why not use SnugPlay equipment while you wait for your new equipment to be delivered and installed? Because SnugPlay is so moveable, it can immediately be used in future playground locations, and then stored for future events once the permanent playground is installed.

