

# The 3 Elements Your Community Playground MUST HAVE

In a year where families and communities are rebuilding a “new normal,” we need to create inviting and attractive public spaces.

Here are 3 elements your playground must have:

## #1. A Wow-Factor!

Families have been cooped up indoors for too long. To get kids motivated to get outdoors, away from screens, and playing again, playgrounds need to be a statement of fun! Kids and parents alike must have a visceral response when they arrive at the playground. It must draw the kids in, sparking an urge to engage with the equipment. Just seeing the playgrounds should elicit excitement and invitation for children to explore. **What is your playground's WOW-factor?**



## #2. A Reason to Stay

Now that you have the attention of kids and parents alike, the playground must have a stay-factor. It must be dynamic and stimulating for children of all ages and abilities. To achieve this, the playground must be innovative and provide the right amount of challenge, all while fostering both independent play and social interactions. Besides that, the playground needs to equally foster independent play and social interactions. **How does your playground retain its audience?**



## #3. Age-Appropriate Fun

The right pieces of equipment can build sensory-motor skills in toddlers while also building agility, balance, and coordination in teens. Children should have the agency to choose what to do, how to move, and what to imagine when they play on a playground. But this does not happen without intentional design strategies geared around a child's age and ability. **Does your playground spark the human instinct to play for any age?**



As simple as these three principles sound, many playgrounds fall short of achieving them. But when you get it right you'll know because your playgrounds will consistently be filled with children, and your community will thank you. If you need help designing a playground or sports and fitness ground, contact Summit Recreation to schedule a meeting.