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Playground Sets: Features That Will Affect Their Placement by [Laura Dudley](#)

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When kids hear the bell for recess, the air is filled with young, energetic voices set to sprint to their favorite hangout spot. For the kids that love a bit of physical activity, the playground is where to be, and most youngsters will love racing up and down the steps, darting across the plank walkway, and going down the slide. A playground can function as a child's personal fort, a space ship or even a secret hideout, and for boys and girls, much of the fun that comes with playing on these plastic pieces of equipment is the imagination. Of course, the adults ordering the set will need to use their imagination to find a decent spot to place the equipment and the correct surface to support the weight of a set, as well as the children on it. You cannot buy a playground set and place it anywhere you want; you must have the following: suitable soil, a decent area and the right equipment to accommodate the age group.

Ground

Sure, your school or park grounds might have enough shade and lots of space for any size playground, but the ground you look to place it on may not be strong enough. A complication with a lot of soil is that it cannot disperse water well, and when it rains, it can cause the playground to sink into the ground. No matter where you are located, any outdoor playground will get wet because of rain or sprinklers, and if the soil has bad drainage, over time, the set will sink into the ground, and you will wind up spending more money to eliminate the dilemma. For experts who examine park and school grounds, they often look at the soil to see how strong it is and how level the ground is because to most supervisors, the ground may seem to be level, but when measured, the ground is actually off by one or two degrees that can present serious dilemmas. The reason why a set must be level is to prevent any drainage problems from taking place; these can damage the set.

Vegetation

Playgrounds may be out in the open away from trees and brush, and some folks may ask what the reasoning for placing it away from plants and shade is. For one, trees can lend great shade, but they can also be a source of problems; for instance, the roots may interfere with placing playground sets anywhere close to a tree. Another issue is the leaves or fruits a tree may have; for instance, an avocado tree will drop fruit, and over time, those avocados will rot and attract annoying insects.

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