



SENSORY PLAY SOLUTIONS

2009/2010 catalogue



Introduction

At first glance, tumbling down a hillside looks like it's about fun, not learning. But like most sensory play activities, your child is actively exploring their world while spinning round and round. What does the grass feel like against their skin? How long does it take to get from the top to the bottom? What happens if they hold hands with a friend and roll?

Sensory play helps children develop balance, coordination, communication, social skills, and so much more. Playing with their senses, or sensory play, is how children begin the process of sensory integration, processing, organizing and filtering sensory input and responding appropriately. Through sensory play children learn to concentrate and manage their emotional responses. When given the opportunity to play freely, children will typically seek out the right amount of sensory input they need.

Mostly, sensory play is letting children explore and play with their surroundings however when you need some inspiration, Garden Escapes aim to help you choose equipment for your play space that nurtures sensory play. Our sensory play solutions encourage children to explore their sense of sound, touch, sight and smell.

We hope that our range of products will help you provide a play space where you can engage and develop your children's senses. We would be delighted to discuss your individual needs and provide you with any advice or information you require. We can also provide you with bespoke design solutions if you are looking for something that little bit special.



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Garden Escapes have designed a range of products that help children to experiment with musical instruments and play with sound in the outdoor environment. Playing with sounds and music help develop and sharpen early listening skills, it exposes children to the ideas of harmony and teamwork, and it gives them an outlet for self expression.



Chimes



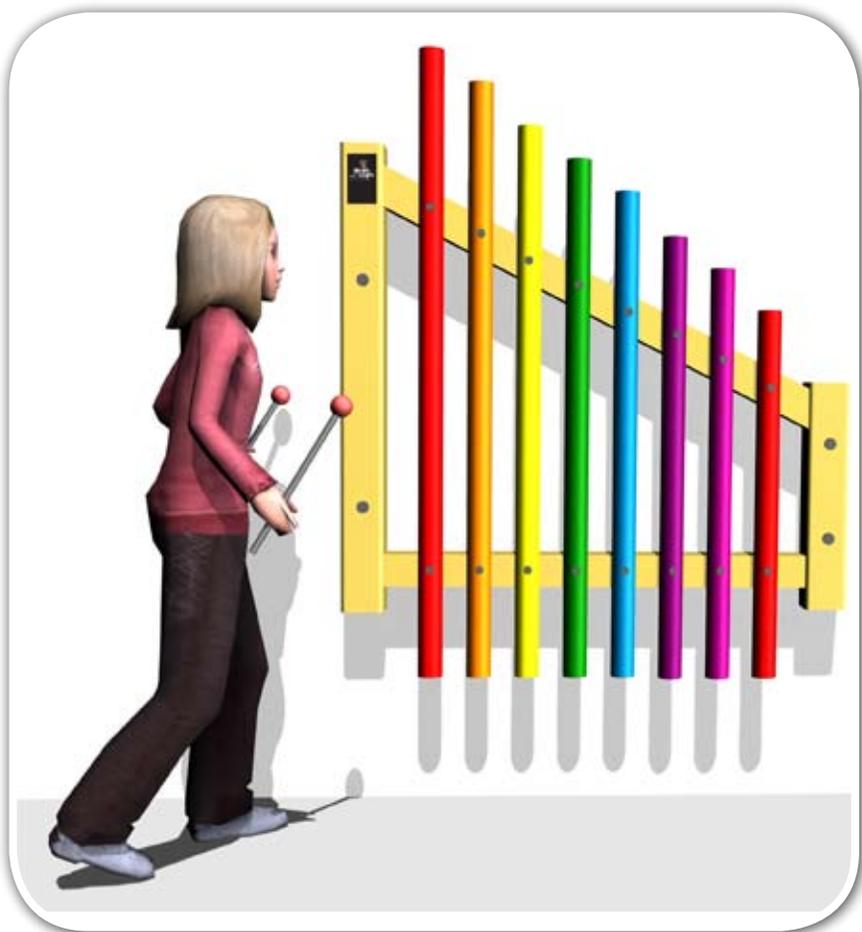
It's easy to play any musical instrument: all you have to do is touch the right key at the right time and the instrument will play itself.

Johann Sebastian Bach

This is our most popular item which is fantastic as a standalone item but can also be used as a starting point for a sound and sensory area. There are eight two inch diameter chimes, accurately tuned to the notes CDEFGABC and mounted on a substantial timber frame. When installed, the set of chimes stands 1.5m tall and provides a great sensory addition to any play area.

Size
1.5m
x
1.2m

Xylo



The Xylo uses the same two inch diameter tuned notes as the Chimes item however the Xylo is has been designed for wall mounting. This item is great for bringing colour to a dull corner, wall or entrance hall. This item can also be fitted to an internal masonry wall making it suitable for indoor and outdoor use.

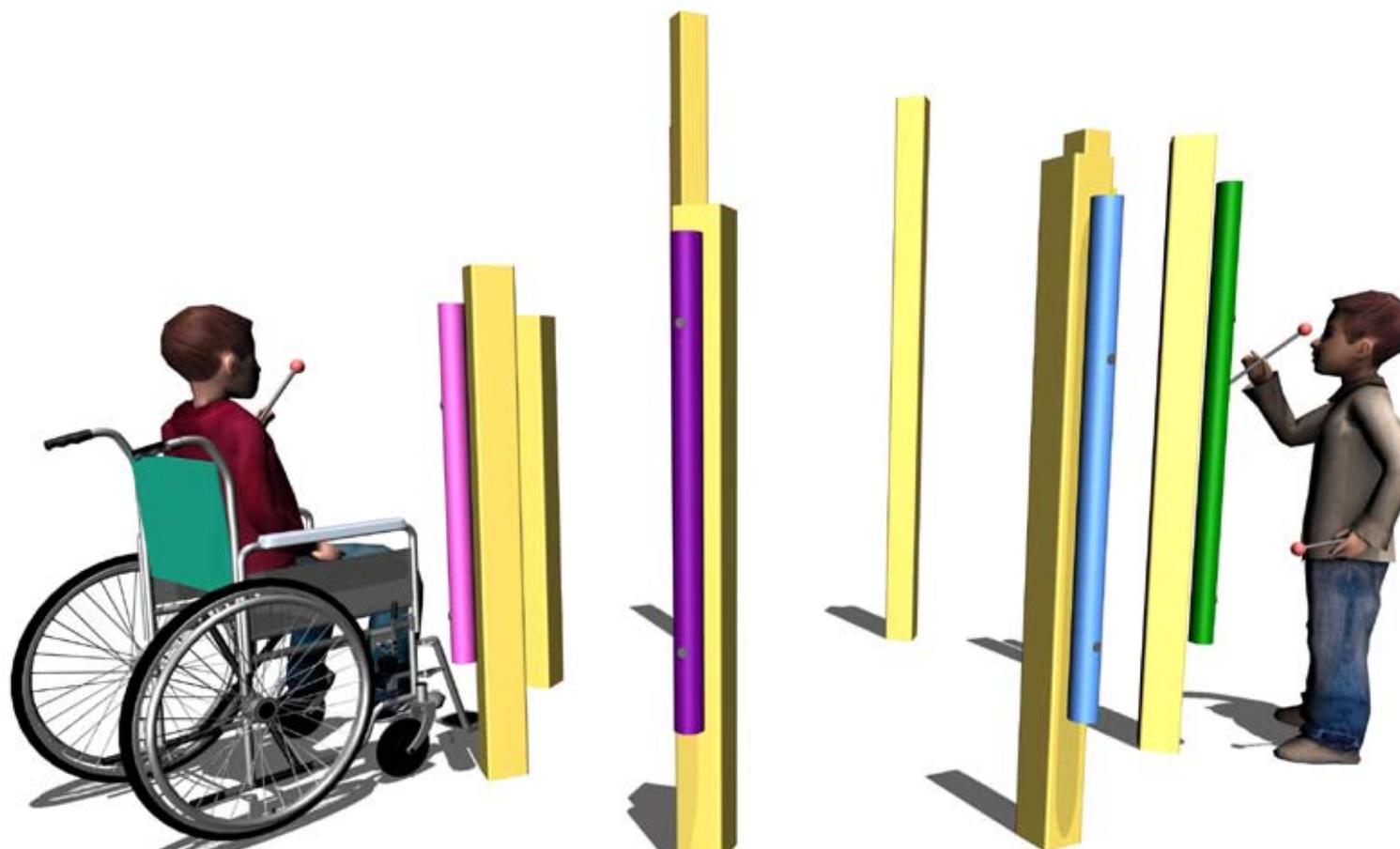
Size
1.0m
x
1.2m

Double Sided Chimes



This item is very similar to our standard set of Chimes, with the main difference being that there are two full sets of notes mounted on each side of the timber frame. This gives improved access for more children at any given time and even makes duets possible

Size
1.5m
x
1.2m



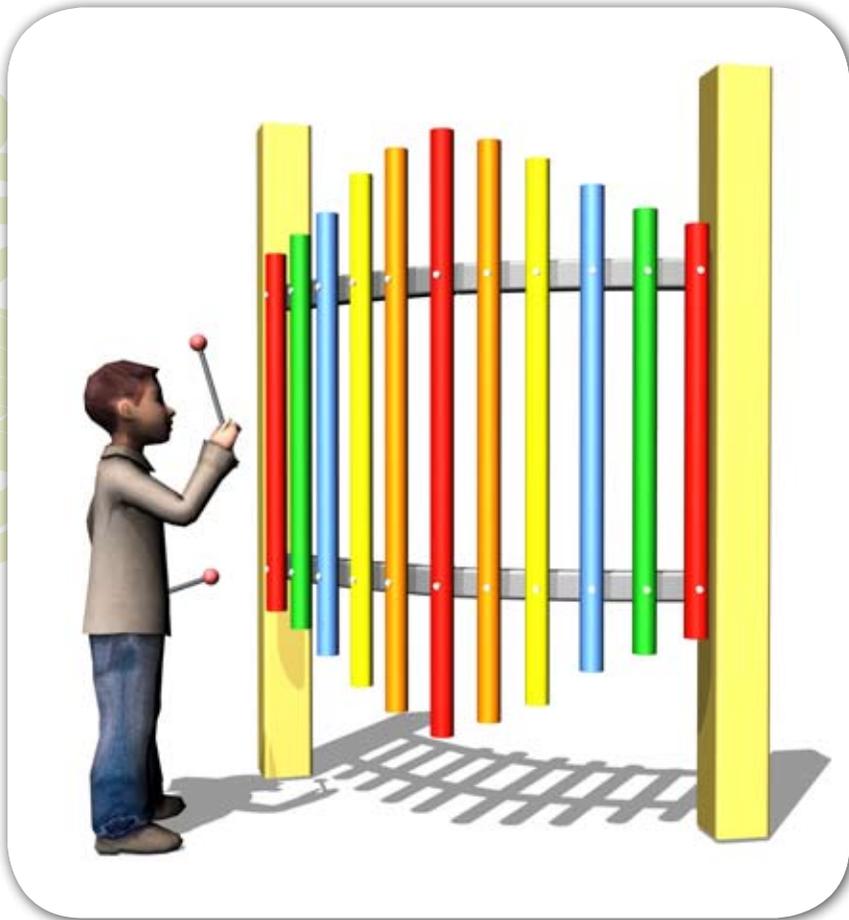
The most effective kind of education is that a child should play amongst lovely things.

Plato

The Spiral consists of eight chimes tuned C to C which are individually mounted on chunky timber posts. As the chimes get longer with each note, so do the posts. The elements of the Spiral are arranged in a 3.0m diameter circle with the chimes facing outward. This gives a unique play experience as children can move through the instrument as they play. The Spiral also looks great installed along a path. The post heights range from 2.0m to 1.2m tall.

Size
from
2.0m to
1.2m tall

Arc



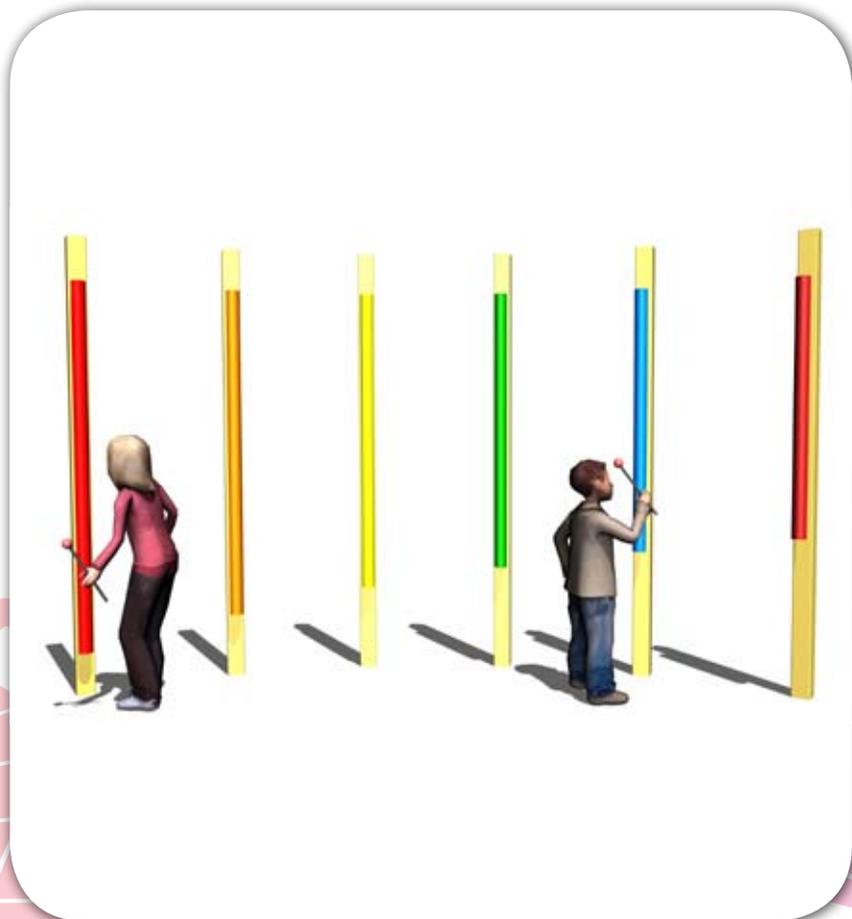
Play is a major avenue for learning to manage anxiety. It gives the child a safe space where she can experiment at will, suspending the rules and constraints of physical and social reality. In play, the child becomes master rather than subject.... Play allows the child to transcend passivity and to become the active doer of what happens around her.

--Alicia F. Lieberman, author, The Emotional Life -- of the Toddler

The Arc has two octaves of chimes, tuned to the pentatonic scale. These are mounted on curved metal support bars positioned between two timber posts. Each octave starts in the middle and move outwards, allowing a number of children to access the instruments. The chimes are 2" in diameter and made from aluminium with a tough powder coat finish.

Size
1.8m
x
1.4m

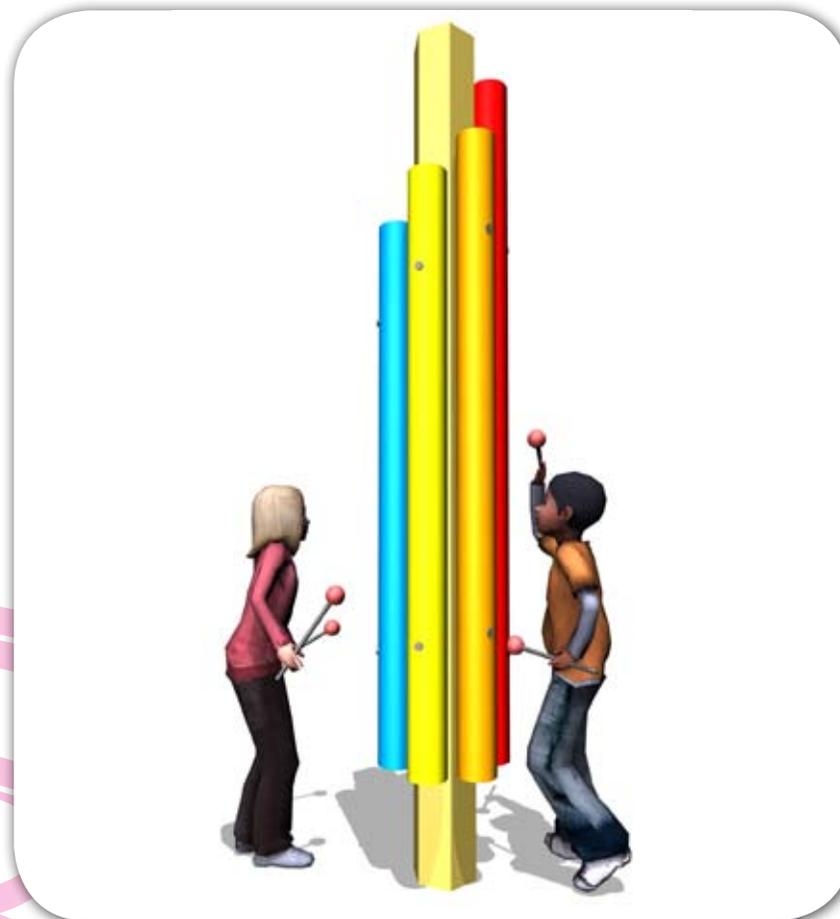
Tall Boys



Tall Boys are a set of six, three inch diameter chimes tuned to the notes CDEGAC. However the difference is that they are BIG! These chimes give a wonderful deep resonance which can actually be felt and seen if you hold light objects such as a pencil against them. As the sound can be felt as well as heard, Tall Boys give a multi-sensory experience. Tall Boys stand 2.4m tall.

Size
2.4m tall

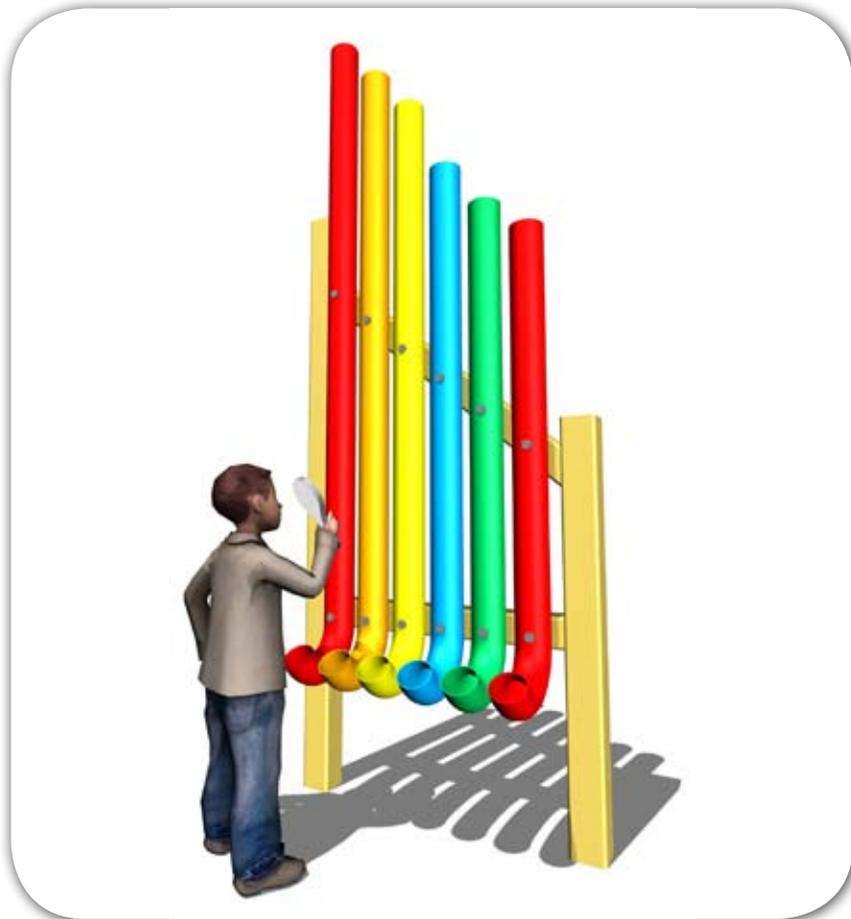
Mast



This impressive item uses an 8" hexagonal timber post to support a set of 3" diameter chimes. The tuned chimes are made from aluminium with a coloured powder coat finish. They range in height from 2.0m down to 1.2m and when struck produce a low level humming noise. This results in a multi-sensory experience as the sound can be heard, felt and even seen by hold light objects such as a pencil, piece of paper or string against the chimes.

Size
2.4m
x
0.5m

Batonkas



Batonkas consist of six J shaped aluminium tubes that produce a wonderful soft bass sound when struck with the supplied paddles. The tubes are pentatonically tuned and range in height from 2.4m down to 1.2m. Each tube is 100mm in diameter and has a durable powder coated finish. The six notes are supplied with a sturdy timber frame for stand alone installation or can be supplied with a wall mountable timber frame.

Size
2.8m
x
1.5m



Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning... They have to play with what they know to be true in order to find out more, and then they can use what they learn in new forms of play.

Fred Rogers

Rainstick



The Rainstick is a sealed stainless steel tube which contains hundreds of tiny plastic beads. When the rainstick is rotated, the beads trickle through a network of spines to reproduce the gentle sound of rainfall. The more vertical the rainstick is, the heavier the rain sounds.

Size
1.5m
x
1.0m

Crash



The Crash consists of three coloured cymbals mounted on a timber frame. The cymbals are different sizes and therefore produce different sounds. This item gives a great contrast to the softer sounds of the other instruments.

Size
1.5m
x
1.0m

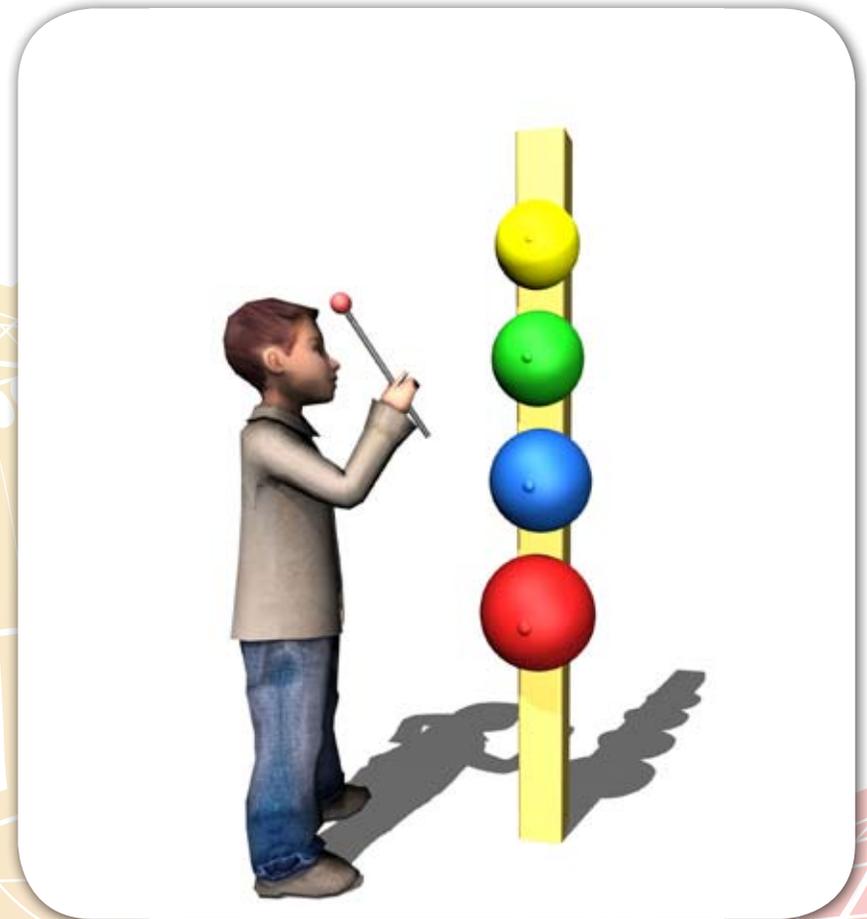
Drum Set



Three drums at various sizes are a great addition to any sound & sensory environment and have been extremely popular with previous customers. The drums are made from very heavy duty plastic and mounted in an attractive curved frame.

Size
1.5m
x
0.8m

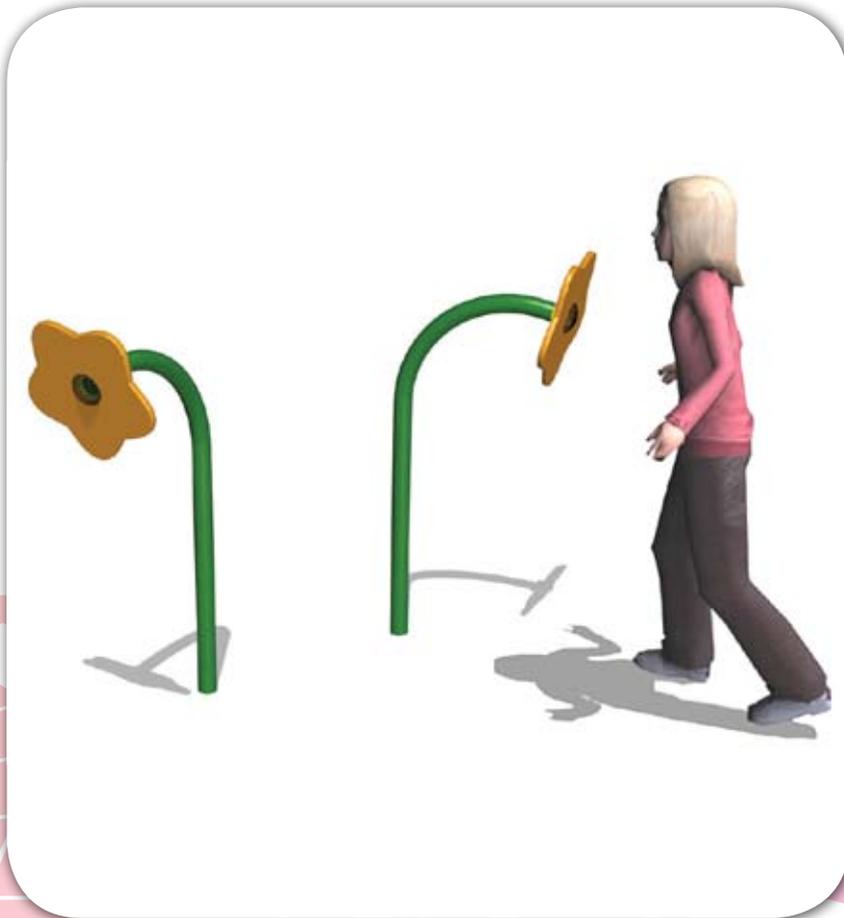
Bell Tree



This stand alone item has four coloured, metal bells in four different sizes mounted on a chunky timber post. The bells range in size from 10" down to 7" in diameter, each sounding with a different pitch.

Size
1.5m
x
0.4m

Talking Flowers



The pair of Talking Flowers is linked below ground and can be installed up to 10m apart. The underground tube carries voices and sound from one flower to the other. Made from steel, with a heavy duty plastic top, the Talking Flowers will provide endless fun for years.

Size
1.2m tall

Talking Bob



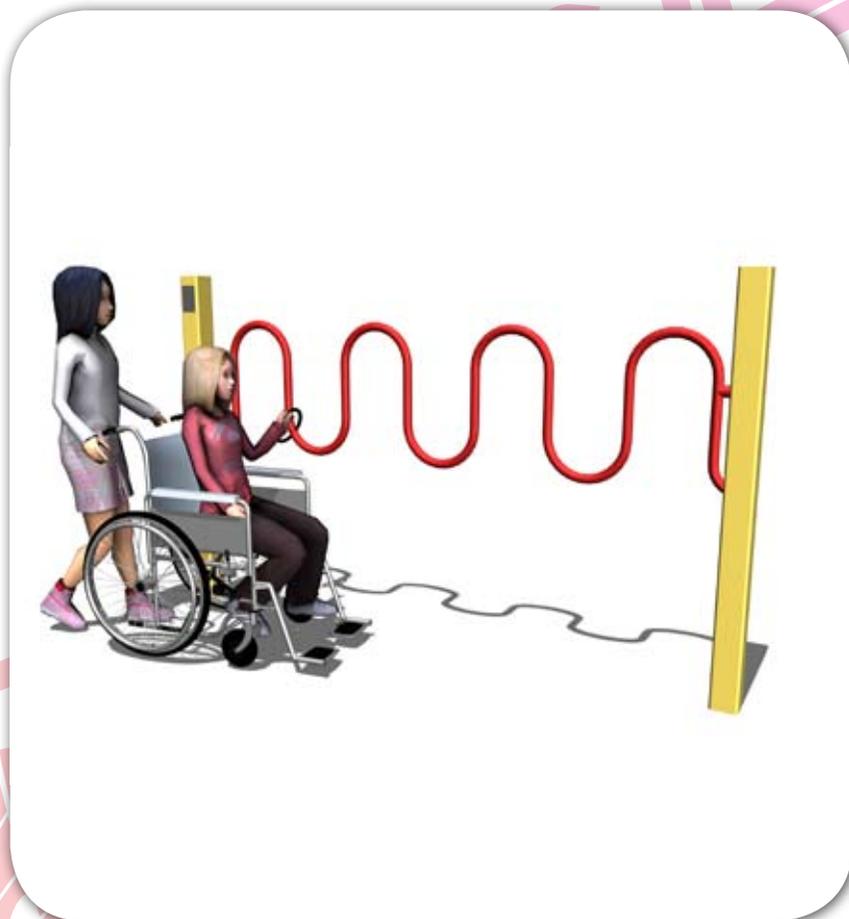
Spin Bob's nose to generate energy, wait for the beep, talk to Bob and Bob talks back! A very simple idea that is completely child powered - no batteries or mains power required. Children giggle and laugh as Bob repeats what they say to him in a funny voice. Bob is of all metal construction and virtually indestructible.

Size
1.2m tall

In addition to our range of sound play equipment, we have also developed a range of equipment to help stimulate the bodies other senses and imagination. Regular stimulation of all the senses helps your child to experience activities more fully and be more aware of the world around him.



Wiggle Bars



Wiggles Bars aim to assist in developing hand to eye co-ordination. The timber posts support a curved steel bar which has a plastic ring threaded through it. The objective is to move the ring along the bar without touching it; kind of like the old buzzer game but without the shock. It's harder than you may think!

Size
2.4m
x
1.2m

Giant Pencils



Let your children feel like they are in the land of the giants with these huge coloured pencils. Sold as a set of four, these 114mm diameter, heavy duty galvanised steel pencils are powdercoated and have a genuine hard wood tip and stand 1.6m and 2.0m tall.

Size
1.6m and
2.0m tall

Toad Stools



Toad Stools are a great addition to any play area. They are brightly coloured with a metal base and a 450mm diameter rubber top. They are supplied in groups of three, two at 400mm high and one at 500mm high creating a fantastic imaginary corner for all your little pixies. Colours may vary from those shown.

Size
400mm
high
500mm
high

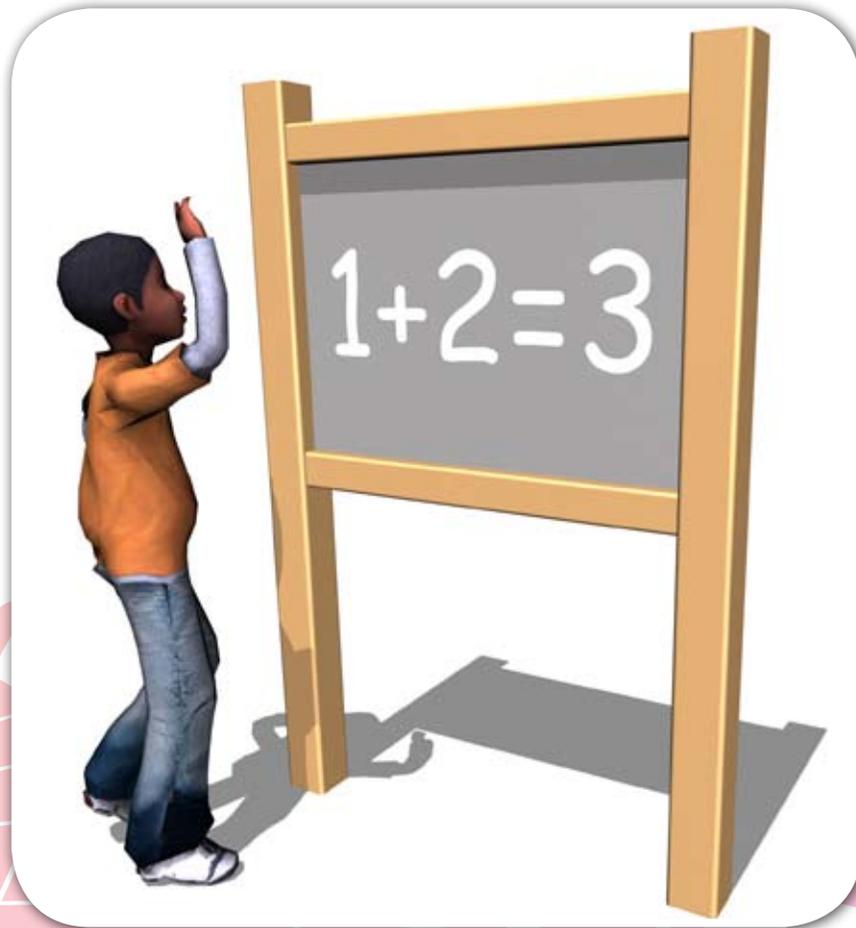
Spheres



We can offer two large, mirror polished, stainless steel spheres in 1.0m and 600mm diameters. These spheres are anchored into the ground and offer a unique visual and tactile experience. Children can sit, stand or lie on these spheres and gaze into them to see the curved reflection of their world. Please be aware that these spheres get warm in direct sunlight, therefore we would recommend installation in a shaded location

Size
1.0m
0.6m

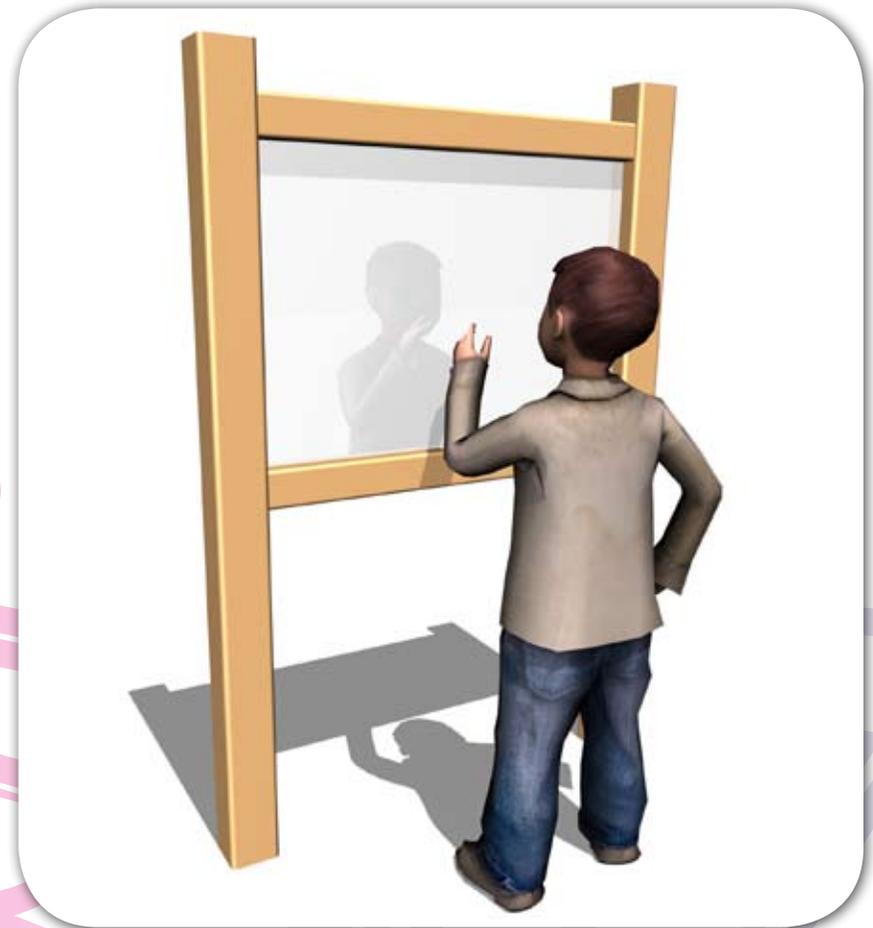
Blackboard



Children love to draw, so we have created this double sided A1 size blackboard which is mounted on two timber posts. The blackboard is also available in a wall mountable timber frame.

Size
1.3m
x
1.0m

Mirror



The mirror is a simple doubled sided shatter proof acrylic mirror mounted on two timber posts. The slightly imperfect reflection provides limitless fun seeing what you and your friends look like. The Mirror is also available in a wall mountable timber frame.

Size
1.3m
x
1.0m

Sand and water are the most natural of all materials for play. Seeing how the sand changes when it's wet or how water moves from one place to another will keep children occupied for hours whilst providing a wealth of tactile and practical learning opportunities.



Axiom Sand box



This timber framed sand box provides an excellent space for up to 10 children to enjoy sand play. The circular shape helps circulation and the HPL seats enable children to sit back and relax.

Size
2.4m
wide

Covered Sand Box



This item has a central sand box measuring 2.1m x 2.1m x 0.38m. This central area is covered by two sliding lids which can be locked to protect the sand when it is not in use. The two covers also provide additional play space for building sand castles or just for sitting on.

Size
2.1m
x
2.1m
x
0.38m

Sand Diggers



It is paradoxical that many educators and parents still differentiate between a time for learning and a time for play without seeing the vital connection between them.

--Leo Buscaglia, author, educator

Enjoy moving sand, gravel or bark with these easy to operate diggers. The Sand Digger has two levers and swivels round on the centre pivot. The Digger is of all metal construction and available in a range of colours. An accessible version is also available

Size
1.5m
x
0.8m

Splish



Splash

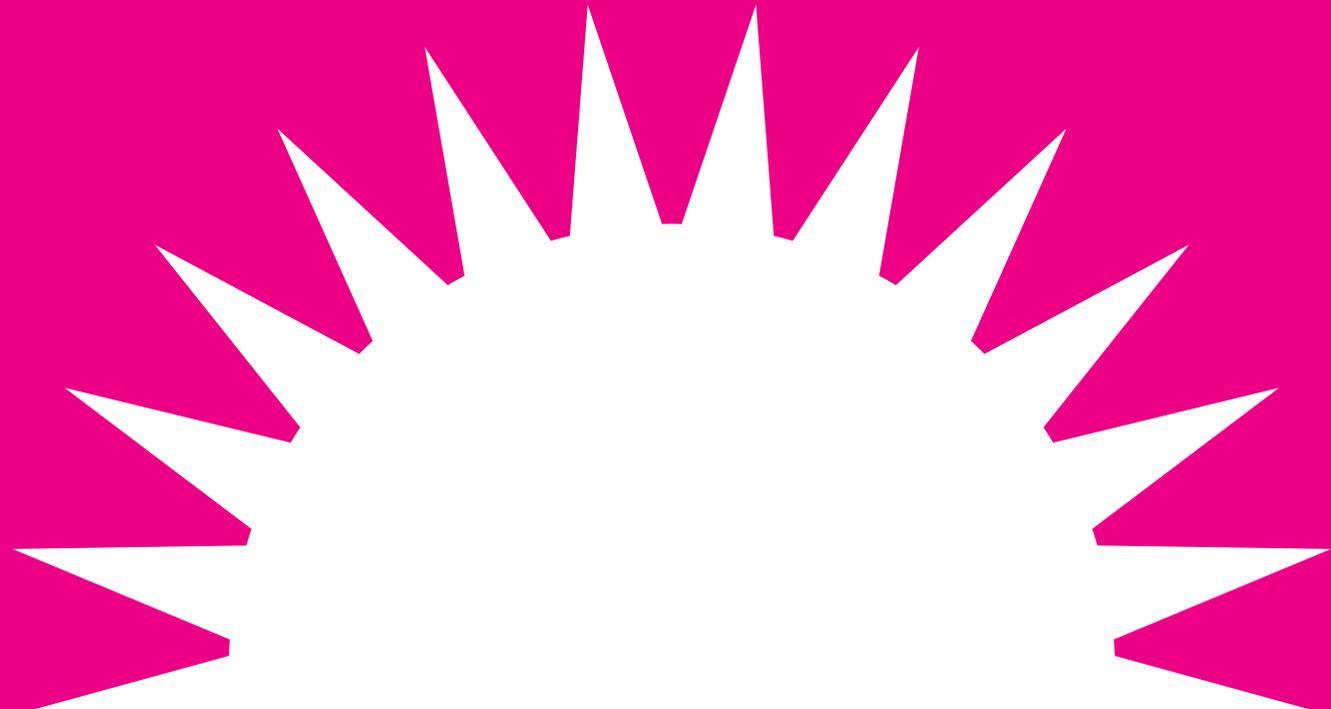


Our Splish and Splash units are a great way of bringing water play into the playground. The units have stainless steel water trays with easy to operate non removable plugs. Each tray has HDPE frame surrounds and is constructed using stainless steel tube and fixings. The structure is supplied with wooden support posts.

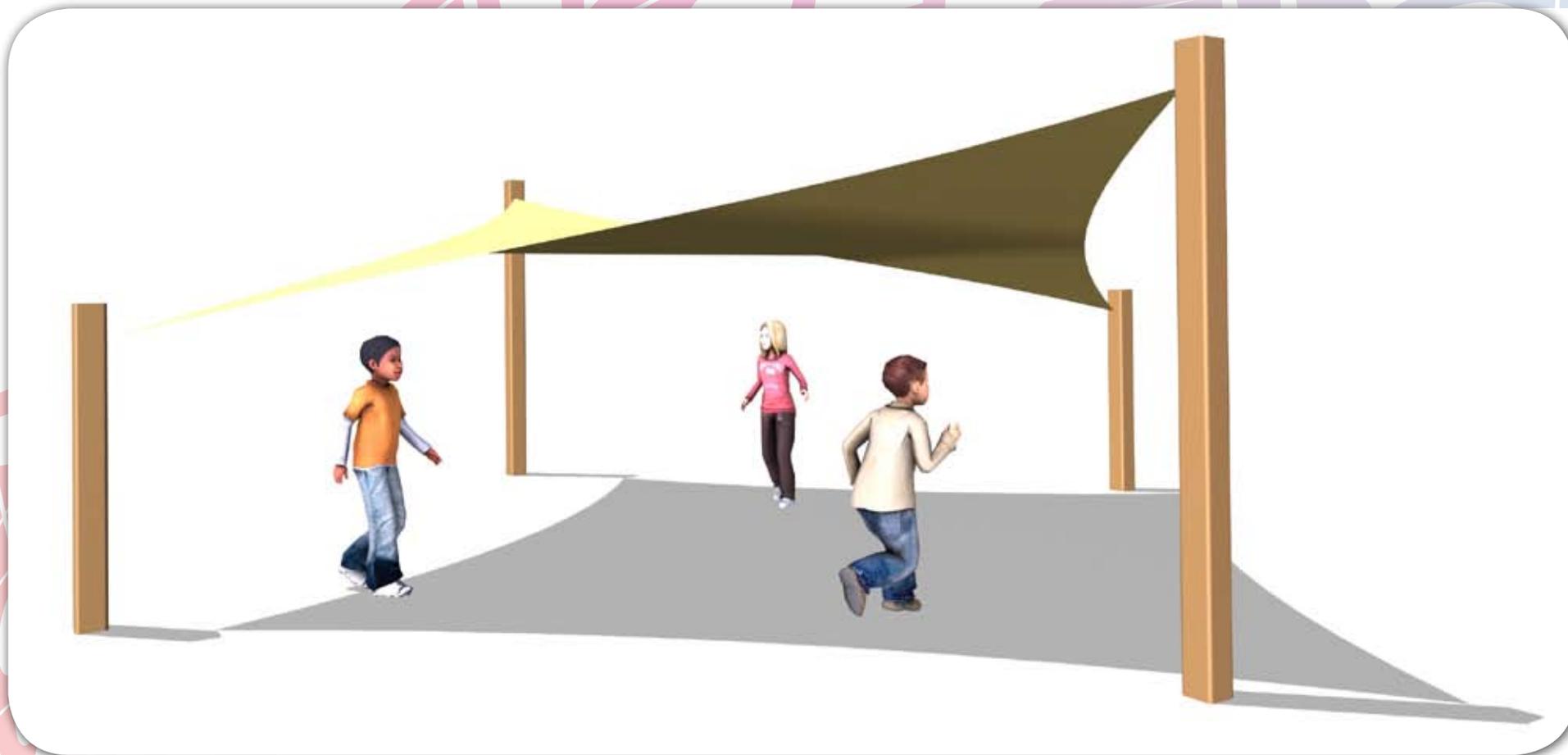
Size
Splish
2.4m
x
1.2m

Splash
2.4m
x
1.8m

Sail Shades originated in Australia and have been used for a number of years to provide protection from harmful UV rays both in the home and in the playground. With schools increasingly being encouraged to spend time outside, a shaded area to sit or play under may be an important consideration.



Sail Shade



Colour Swatch:



Cream



Green



Grey

Sail shades are available in a range of sizes, shapes and colours. They are normally fixed to heavy duty timber posts or in some cases, they can be fixed to buildings. Our standard sizes are given below but please contact us to discuss your individual needs regarding this product.

3.6 x 3.6m triangle

3 x 4 x 5m right angle triangle

5.0 x 5.0m square

Larger sizes are available on request.

5.0 x 5.0m triangle

3.6 x 3.6m square

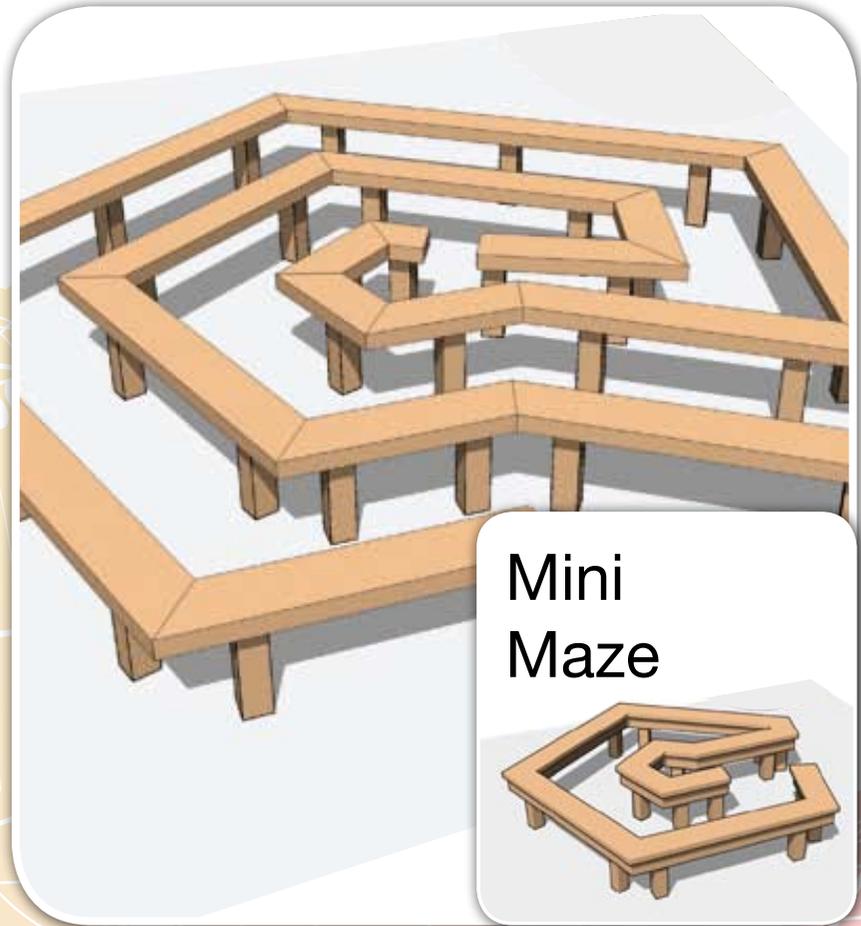
Story Tellers Chair



Securely fixed into the ground the Story Tellers chair is 1500mm high and comes engraved with "Once Upon a Time". Alternatively for a little extra cost, you can have a personalised engraving to suit. It can be used on its own or with our other seating arrangements

Size
1.5m
x
0.6m

Amazing Seating



**Mini
Maze**

Our pentagonal maze can seat up to 60 children and broadens the imagination of pupils and teachers alike in terms of the games that can be played and the educational value it provides. The maze brings many benefits to the school environment as it extends the classroom into the playground. It is suitable for children of all ages, and can be used as a quiet area forming the basis of storytelling circle.

Mini Maze

The same benefits as our Amazing Seating but on a much smaller scale. This item can seat up to 20 children.

Size
4.4m
x
4.2m

**Mini
Maze**
2.7m
x
2.6m

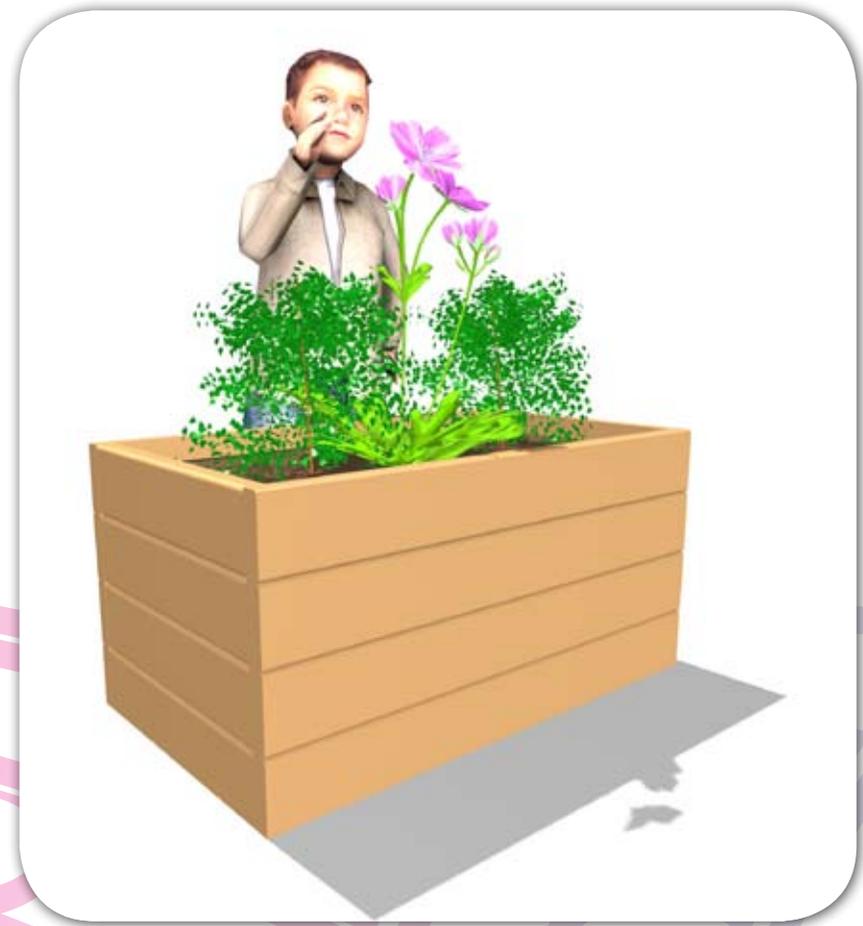
Radius Seat



Our modular radius curved seating has been designed to allow for a number of desirable seating arrangements. Through combining inside and outside radius units you can create a dramatically different modular seating group. By varying the layout and number of curved units you can create a full circle, semi-circle, horseshoe or even serpentine shapes to name a few, thereby providing the most efficient use of seating space. Each section measures 1.3m long.

Size
1.3m

Planter



We can supply timber planters of any size, however this is our most popular design. Supplied fully assembled with an internal base, all you need to do is add compost and sensory plants such as Lavender, Chocolate Cosmos or Mint

Size
1.2m
x
0.7m
x
0.6m

Case study – Knockbreda Nursery School

Knockbreda Nursery School is located in Belfast and caters for fifty two, three and four year old children. The school had an over grown grassy area that they felt could be put to better use.

The result has been an enchanting garden area that incorporates paths, willow huts, sound and sensory play equipment, and a seating area with a sail shade.

By releasing the potential from an under used piece of ground, they have gained an invaluable learning environment – but enough from us, let’s hear what the children say about it!



'You can have a wee rest when you get tired'
- Connie



'There are fairies underneath the toadstools'
- Charley



'They are very tall, like a rainbow in the sky'
- Christopher



'You can see the world in it'
- Abaigh



'You can play tunes - I played twinkle, twinkle little star'
- Katie



'You can hear the noise for a long time'
- Jack

Terms & Conditions of Sale

All Garden Escapes sound and sensory play equipment is sold subject to our terms and conditions of sale, a copy of which is available on request.

Material Specification

Most of our equipment has a timber construction frame. This timber has been treated to make it suitable for permanent outdoor use. The timber has been planed and sanded to give a smooth finish. Our chimes are made from hollow section aluminium tube with 2" and 3" diameters. These chimes are then hand tuned before being polyester powder coated. All fixings are stainless steel or zinc coated steel to maximise durability. Please contact us if you require any further information about the materials used in our products.

Maintenance Requirements

Our products are designed to be largely maintenance free however as timber is a natural material, it may fade in colour, and require a light rub with sand paper from time to time. A non-toxic wood preservative can be applied with a brush to refresh the colour. Small splits may also appear along the grain however this is normal and should not affect the structure of the item. Fixings should be checked on a regular basis to ensure they are tight. Rubber grommets should be checked periodically for wear on relevant products.

Warranty

All of our items of equipment have a 12 month warranty, when used within a controlled environment and for the purposes for which they were designed. Our metal components are polyester powder coated which while being a tough and durable finish, will chip and scratch if struck with hard, sharp objects. We recommend only using the beaters supplied with the product or a similar item. If the finish does become damaged, the product will not corrode and the performance of the product will not be affected. Our warranty excludes damage caused by vandalism or misuse. It also excludes aesthetic damage to the products coloured finish.

If you are considering our Stainless Steel Spheres we recommend that they are installed in a shady area as direct sunlight can cause these items to become hot.





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