

MAGICAL BRIDGE[®]

F O U N D A T I O N

It all starts on the playground!



Introducing a new kind of community playground,
where everyone *truly* plays together.

Opened to the public in April 2015 in the heart of Silicon Valley, Magical Bridge Playground is heralded as the nation's most innovative and inclusive playground. Magical Bridge Foundation furthers the promise of this remarkable accomplishment by advocating for and creating inclusive and innovative playgrounds in other communities — designed for everyone, so everybody can play.

Why Magical Bridge?

Nearly 20% of our population is living with a disability, and yet playgrounds are still not designed to meet the unique needs of everyone in our community. Until now.

Since opening in Palo Alto, California, the founders of Magical Bridge Playground have received requests from around the world to replicate our groundbreaking model in their communities. This ongoing enthusiasm underscores the urgent and global need for play spaces designed for everyone.

The formation of [Magical Bridge Foundation](#) is the natural next step, with a mission to bring the magic of Magical Bridge Playgrounds to communities everywhere.

"When you design for true inclusion, no one stands out... everyone plays!"
—Ingrid K.

"Magical Bridge empowers all children. It proves that we can take active measures to make the next generation of Americans more informed and tolerant of all people."
—Fernando M.

The Impact of Inclusion

Building a caring and accepting community benefits everyone, and Magical Bridge Foundation believes a playground is the most powerful place to start.

When given the chance to play side by side inclusively, **children with disabilities** enjoy a lifetime of greater acceptance by their peers, balanced and satisfying relationships, and show marked progress behaviorally. They also improve their social skills, motor strength, self-control, and self-esteem.

The benefits for **children without disabilities** are also profound. They develop a reduced fear of human differences accompanied by increased awareness and personal principles. They learn to form warm and caring friendships through increased confidence and compassion.

The opportunity to play with others helps strengthen and maintain physical, emotional, psychological, and social well-being for us all. *Join us as we spread the joy of Magical Bridge Playground!*





Magical Bridge Playground's two-story playhouse and stage, custom designed by Barbara Butler Artist-BUILDER, Inc.

What Makes a Playground Magical?



Designed to be a socially inclusive playground for children of varying physical and cognitive abilities, Magical Bridge Playground addresses the unique play needs of the many kinds of children in the community. The first of its kind, Magical Bridge Playground clearly illustrates how today's typical park designs overlook so many: the growing autistic population, visually and hearing impaired, physically limited, and even our aging community. **Change is here and it is magical!**

100% INCLUSIVE

- Distinct play zones designed to accommodate everyone.
- Retreat Cocoons for those needing a break from play.
- Smooth, seamless pathways.
- Wheelchair access to a two-story playhouse, treehouse and top of a slide mound.
- Fully accessible equipment including bucket swings, joyful spinning features, wide slides, a sway boat, and merry-go-round.

100% INNOVATIVE

- Far surpasses the minimum ADA requirements.
- Designed by inclusive play experts, educators, therapists, families living with various disabilities, and leading landscape architects.
- Surprising and innovative features such as a 24-string laser harp, whimsical artwork, seamless turf, custom wooden structures for tactile and visual impact, and many others.

100% ENRICHING

- Outdoor play is the foundation for physical development, as well as social-emotional lessons such as cooperation, sharing, problem solving and kindness. Without inclusive playgrounds, many families do not have a place to bring their children to play.
- Everyone in a community benefits from the elimination of social stigmas and prejudices, and this naturally happens when people of all abilities have the chance to play together.

The Importance of Play

Playgrounds aid the development of children of all abilities by providing multisensory experiences that help in numerous ways.

SENSORY

Visual • Auditory • Proprioception (muscles)
Tactile • Vestibular (engages body movement)

MOTOR SKILLS

Fine Motor • Agility • Balance • Cardiovascular
Coordination • Eye-hand coordination • Endurance
Motor Planning

STRENGTH

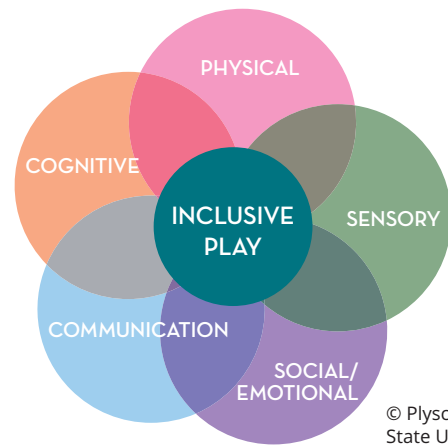
Upper Body Strength • Lower Body Strength
Core Body Strength

COGNITIVE SKILLS

Problem Solving • Strategic Planning

SOCIAL / EMOTIONAL SKILLS

Social Skill Development • Imaginative Play
Cooperation



The Community

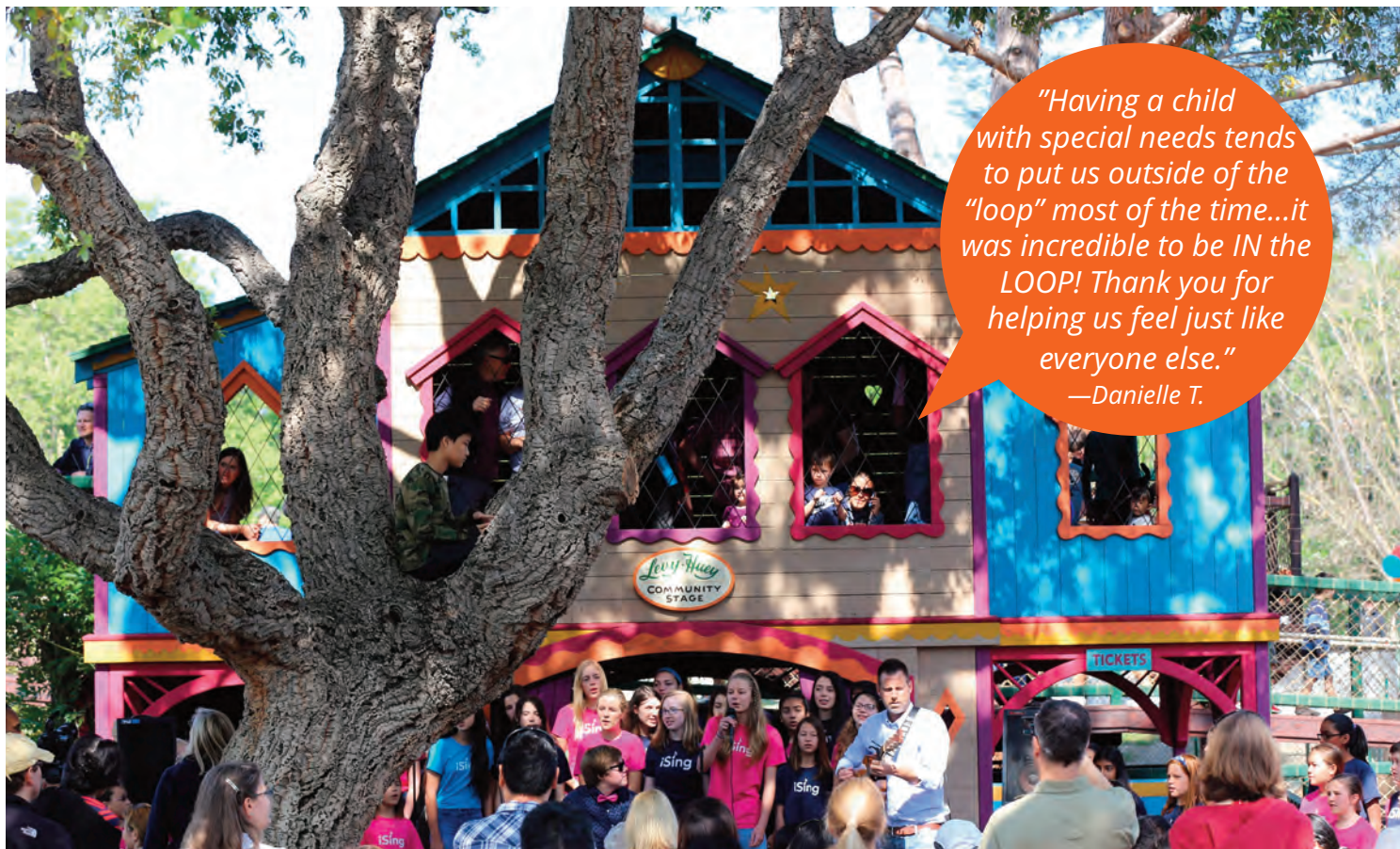
According to the U.S. Census of 2010, nearly 25.4 million families have at least one member in their family with a disability, making this the largest minority group, and one that each of us can become a member of at any time.

Magical Bridge Playgrounds are designed to address the complex needs of the entire population living with disabilities, from the physical to the cognitive. It is important to note that only 10% of those with disabilities are physically affected; autism, cognitive and developmental issues, sensory challenges and many other differences make up the other 90%. The first of its kind, Magical Bridge Playground considers everyone.

"Outdoor play helps my daughter with her physical limitations and it was amazing to see her move and navigate through Magical Bridge Playground like a pro."

—Anabel V.





"Having a child with special needs tends to put us outside of the 'loop' most of the time...it was incredible to be IN the LOOP! Thank you for helping us feel just like everyone else."
—Danielle T.



MAGICAL BRIDGE

Our Mission

Magical Bridge Foundation ignites and supports a global movement that advocates for and achieves a new foundation for truly inclusive play.

654 Gilman Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 | www.magicalbridge.org

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Contact Us

Jill Asher 650-520-8512
jill@magicalbridge.org

Kris Loew 650-576-0604
kris@magicalbridge.org

Olenka Villarreal 650-380-1557
olenka@magicalbridge.org