

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**CRITERIA OF PLAY EQUIPMENT  
OF INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND FOR  
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

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## **ABSTRACT**

All children including children with disabilities have the rights to experience of play towards their development. However, nowadays they often face problems at public playgrounds due to the lack of ample provisions and equipment to cater their special needs. In Malaysia, there had been lack of studies on the needs of play equipment for children with disabilities. Play equipment in Inclusive playground is be designed as tools that can be enjoy to all children to play together safely. The challenge ahead for Malaysia is to transform its approach from a welfare perspective to human rights. Based on the hurdles, the research aim is highlighted to suggest best practice criteria of play equipment of inclusive playground for children with disabilities to support their recreational activities. This research based on data obtained from non-participant observation to the play equipment of pilot project's inclusive playground in Malaysia and distribution of questionnaires survey to parents and caretaker that bring their children with physical disabilities to neighbourhood playground in Selangor. Based on statistic by Social Welfare Department, Selangor has been recorded as the highest numbers of children of physical disabilities in 2020. The result shown that the criteria of play equipment on inclusive playground in Penang, Petaling Jaya and Bandar Elmina are acceptable as referred to the guidelines from USA, Australia and Singapore. There are five main criteria can considered as best criteria of play equipment based on perspective by respondents, such as accessibility, proper height, sufficient space, reachable of play equipment, safety features of play equipment are assigned as best practice in providing a friendly, accessible and safe playground equipment for children with disabilities. It is hoped that this research can assist the local authority and the playground's provider to influence the inclusiveness element in the playground in order to attract every child including the ones with disabilities to play together on the neighbourhood playground.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

This chapter initiates with a discussion of the research background describing the topic of the main aspect of the research. This is followed by the research problem, research questions, aim and objectives of the research, scope of the research, significance of research and overview research methodology. This chapter concludes with the arrangement and details of the chapters of the research.

### 1.2 Research Background

All children including with disabilities have rights to experience the joys of playing not only for the excitement but also to encourage growth and development. According to Maniam (2016), playing is essential for children's development in the aspect of affective, psychomotor, cognitive, social interaction, imagination and creativity. Gray (2013) stated that childhood play is an essential activity for the development of social systems and personal experience. This process is one of the powerful learning mechanisms for children and thus it is essential to blend it within social activities. In addition, plays are able to improve health conditions, reducing the risk of obesity, hearth attack and stress while also increasing the strength of the muscles, aerobic capacity and bone (Harold, Kohl & Heather, 2013).

In order for children to accomplish this benefit, they can do that by playing together by themselves. The children also can use tools and equipment to increase the excitement and can play along together too. The play equipment is one of the basic facilities that are suitable for physical activities for children with disabilities and supposedly available in neighbourhood public parks and playgrounds. As mentioned by Mani et al (2012) and Abd Wahab (2015), the public parks and playground has become the suitable place as it is a safe place and have been created for them to play on the equipment while doing some recreational activity. The playground that consists of a complete set of play equipment offers the opportunities for them to develop their social skills and strengthen motor skills through climbing, swinging, jumping, sliding and