



**Rehabilitation Center**

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am very pleased to write this letter of support for The Swing High Project playground. As a pediatric rehabilitation physician, I firsthand see the benefits of a fully accessible playground for children with special needs.

Over the last seven years, I have traveled monthly from Denver to Colorado Springs to care for children with physical disabilities. My clinic is supported by both Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs and The Children's Hospital in Denver. The number of children that would benefit from a universally-accessible playground is significant. In my monthly clinics I see approximately 20 children and their families each visit. In addition, I have the great fortune of being associated with the outpatient pediatric rehabilitation program at Memorial Hospital. They see between 150 and 200 children per month in their outpatient clinic. These are all children who would benefit from this playground. The traditional playground that we all bring our children and families to is not accessible to children with physical disabilities. The typical child with physical limitations such as needing to use a walker or crutches for ambulation, or requires a wheelchair to move around in their community, is unable to access the traditional playground. This, unfortunately, sets these children aside, something which they are already facing on a daily basis.

The benefit of all children being able to participate in recreational activities such as going to the community playground is invaluable. The social and emotional growth that we seen in children is related to their ability to participate in recreational activities. That same emotional and social growth is necessary in children with physical disabilities and even more so given their other limitations.

I have been very impressed with the dedication and focus of the people involved with The Swing High Project; specifically, Michelle Farrell. She is a dynamic young woman who has seen firsthand the frustrations of having a daughter isolated from the other children due to her physical disability. She has turned this frustration into an incredibly positive endeavor. This project will undoubtedly succeed with Michelle's leadership as well as the support from the Colorado Springs community.

Sincerely,

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