

PLAY FOR ALL: SUPPORTING A HIGHER LEVEL OF INCLUSIVE PLAY®

THE RELATIONSHIP

Landscape Structures is excited to partner with the STAR (Sensory Therapies and Research) Institute, drawing on their unparalleled experience and progressive knowledge to truly understand the developmental benefits children gain while playing on inclusive playground equipment.



THE RESEARCH

The Star Institute conducted an extensive, empirical study to better understand the impact that specific pieces of Landscape Structures playground equipment can have on the sensory functioning, physical skills and social interactions of children with developmental disorders. Additionally, the goal of the study was to further analyze the specific behaviors observed on each piece of equipment so as to associate the sensory and motor characteristics of the equipment with developmental abilities related to social participation, play, self-regulation and self-esteem. The results support the need for a Higher Level of Inclusive Play®.

THE FINDINGS

Overall, the children in this study experienced increased positive interactions with peers, advances in motor skills, improved self-regulation, response inhibition and increased self-esteem using the playground equipment.



The Rollerslide most often encouraged children to engage in tactile play and social play (turn taking), and the vestibular input encouraged balance, weight shifting and body position awareness.



The Saddle Spinner, besides a source of vestibular and proprioceptive input, elicited positive social interactions such as turn-taking.



On the **Double Swoosh™ Slide,** children learned cooperative play. They were observed waiting at the top of the slide, controlling their anticipation and excitement, until their companion was ready.



The Cozy Dome® functioned as both a quiet, semi-private space to retreat from over stimulation and as a “time-in” place to support emotional self-regulation. Even more, kids used the Cozy Dome for symbolic play.



On the **Mobius® Climber,** children showcased their motor planning and sequencing skills by climbing up, down and around. They also displayed confidence and self-esteem by calling out to others on the playground to witness their success.



The OmniSpin® Spinner supported helping behavior, emotion recognition and joint (shared) attention, key elements to healthy social development.

**THROUGH SENSORY PLAY WITH PEERS IN A NATURAL SETTING,
CHILDREN DISCOVER THEIR WORLD AND HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN IT.**

THE RESEARCH WAS LED BY LUCY JANE MILLER, PH.D., OTR



"When children of any ability walk onto our playground they are instantly engaged. The Landscape Structures playground speaks to every person, no matter what his or her ability level. It says, "Come try me out. We will have fun together! You will challenge yourself, and you will succeed!"

— Lucy Jane Miller, Ph.D., OTR, Founder of the STAR Institute

As founder of the first comprehensive Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) research and clinical program and author of groundbreaking *Sensational Kids: Hope and Help for Children with Sensory Processing Disorder* and co-author of *No Longer A SECRET*, Dr. Lucy Jane Miller's name is synonymous with sensory research, education and treatment.

Dr. Miller has been investigating and explaining SPD to other scientists, professionals, and parents since she was an early mentee of pioneer Dr. A. Jean Ayres, more than 40 years ago. Since then, studies by Dr. Miller and colleagues have brought SPD widespread recognition, and her work with families has improved countless lives. Thanks specifically to Dr. Miller's promoting SPD within the research community, SPD now appears in two diagnostic manuals: the ICDL's *Diagnostic Manual* and *The Diagnostic Classification: Zero to Three*. Advanced clinicians travel from all over world to attend mentorships offered by Dr. Miller and her team.

The prominence of Dr. Miller's research, and her compassion and connection with families make her a prolific interview subject (e.g., NBC's *Today Show*, ABC's *20/20*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Newsweek*). She is the author of more than 60 articles and a frequent speaker at international and national conferences.

In 2004, Dr. Miller received the Award of Merit from the American Occupational Therapy Association, the profession's highest honor, and in 2005, she was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award by the state of Colorado for her three decades of work with disenfranchised children.

