

# Assessment sheet

## Type of play space or facility

Type A: Doorstep  Type B: Local  Type C: Neighbourhood

**Type B:** Local spaces and facilities: A larger space which can be reached safely by children beginning to travel independently and with friends, without accompanying adults and for adults with young children to walk to with ease.

Name of site and assessor/s .....Parent carers.....

Date of assessment .....Several visits over the year in various weather conditions.....

## Description of the site and its surroundings

Which aspects of the site are being assessed? Accessibility for disabled children.

### First impressions of the site

Include first impressions about the site, including location, hazards, overall look and feel, for example: does it look and feel friendly?

Play area surfaced with bark chippings (main playground) and sand (toddler playground). So not just **\*difficult\*** for a wheelchair user to access, it's **\*impossible\*** to manage a sand surface in a wheelchair; any equipment within a sand area is inaccessible to those in wheelchairs unless they get out of the chair.

There is a basket swing in Prospect Park but it's surrounded by bark chippings so very hard for a disabled person in a wheelchair to access. Also bark chippings/sand are very hard to navigate using a walker so it's not just wheelchair users, it's those with mobility difficulties who walk as well.

Prospect Park is Reading's largest park and a beautiful open space. However, there is no dedicated disabled parking in the car park which is surfaced with a concrete grid stuff, so not easy to negotiate with a wheelchair/sticks/walker. (There is disabled parking in the pub car park but that's only for pub customers.)

Some paths are unsafe for wheelchair users or those with limited mobility as they are very narrow and bumpy where tree roots have crossed the path so the tarmac has broken up or is just so uneven that a wheelchair gets completely stuck (particularly the path from Liebenrod Rd up to the play area – wheelchair users have to go in the road which is also not very safe!). And there are not enough paths. Those with mobility difficulties cannot enter the park on a hard path from many directions, and the woodland areas and most of the south of the park are just grass with no paths at all. There is definitely room for more surfaced routes across the path, and for the existing east-west route to go around the bottom of the hill to avoid a steep climb for those with mobility issues – eg from the car park round the bottom of the hill to meet up with the existing east-west path by the bowling green. This area becomes very boggy in winter and would be completely impassable for someone in a wheelchair or using a walker.

### Overall observations of the site after the assessment

This may include issues that will need to be taken into account for any future work, such as H&S.

The bark chippings are also not suitable for buggies, pushchairs, children's cycles or scooters. The lack of poorly paved pathways also has an impact on all families as per previous comment but also to adults in wheelchairs. This makes large areas of the park inaccessible. If you access the park on foot from the Asda side you have to negotiate a very steep hill past the Mansion House to get to the playground, courts etc. A pathway was put around the green space in Kensington Road Park last year. It is really well used by joggers, walkers, dog walkers with pushchairs and wheelchair users where previously this area was inaccessible especially during the winter months.

5	Excellent	2	Weaknesses, improvements needed
4	Good	1	Serious weaknesses, improvement needed
3	Average, needs some improvement		
<b>Involvement of children</b>		<b>Score</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Involvement of children		N/A	
<b>Location (Max score A=35, B=35, C=35)</b>		<b>Score</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Informal oversight		3	
Well used by children		3	
Getting there		2	
Personal safety, lighting and security		4	
Disability access		1	
Meeting other children		3	
Designed for the sight		2	
<b>TOTAL</b>		20	
<b>Final score: total as % of max</b>		57%	
<b>Play value (max score A=40, B=50, C=50)</b>		<b>Score</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Enticing to children to play		3	
Play opportunities for disabled children		2	
Play needs of different ages (Type B and C only)		3	
Movement		2	
Imaginative play ages (Type B and C only)		4	
Ball games		4	
Loose parts		5	
Access to the natural environment		2	
Places for children to sit		5	
Added play value		3	
<b>TOTAL</b>		33	
<b>Final score: total as % of max</b>		66%	
<b>Care and maintenance (max score A=25, B=35, C=35)</b>		<b>Score</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Well maintained		4	
Health and safety		3	
Seating for adults		5	
Litter bins		4	
Dog free zones		4	
Presence of supervisory adults (Type B & C only)			
Toilets/changing facilities (Type B & C only)			
<b>Total</b>		20	
<b>Final score: total as % of max</b>		80%	

