Let Them Play!

New Play Spaces for the WSU Children's Center

About our Play Spaces

The WSU Children's Center outdoor learning environment meets the needs of young children by allowing them to move, explore, create, and connect with one another. Outdoor play is a foundation of learning that begins in our childhood. We need your help to add age-appropriate playground equipment for our children who range from infants to preschool to school-aged youths.

We are partnering with Minnesota-based Landscape structures to build two outdoor spaces. Each classroom has selected specific equipment that fosters age-appropriate growth and development for that age group. Modular designs can be enhanced and expanded as our Center grows.

Join us to create an outdoor play space that encourages confidence, curiosity, and compassion in children. Your donations will impact the young lives attending our Children's Center!

Why are new playgrounds necessary?

- Age-appropriate equipment helps children develop proprioception (perception and awareness of positioning and moving our bodies)
- This helps prevent falling down while sitting or going up and down steps
- The playground will include wagons for pushing and pulling, and buckets of sand and water to help with lifting and moving
- It will promote vestibular senses for balancing and rotating
- These help children connect with and move with the world around them





How does unstructured free play benefit children?

- Free play encourages communication skills
- Children learn how to navigate complex social networks
- Children learn how to play with others
- It improves cognitive development and interactions with others

An Infant & Toddler outdoor play space will:

- Include slides, climbers, and other features that stimulate the senses
- Promote the development of gross motor skills
- Encourage cooperative play
- Foster balance and coordination
- Be used daily by our infants and toddlers



A Preschool & School-age play space will:

- Include an outdoor kitchen, animal fossils embedded into walls, flip letters and traceable numbers
- Be used by approximately 100 children DAILY!
- Provide safe yet challenging play structures for developing gross motor skills
- Foster balance and coordination as well as social skills by encouraging cooperative play