There are 12 recognised types of play.

1. Auditory/Sound (voice, listening, music) – Talk tubes, instruments

2. Balancing - Balance beams, mini pods

3. Brachiating (travelling hand to hand) – Overhead ladders, rings, track rides

4. Chinning – Chin-up bars and similar devices

5. Climbing – All types of climbing devices, rock walls

6. Gathering – Benches, seats, tables and leaning devices

7. Imaginative (nothing moves) – Tactile and visual panels, bubbles

8. Manipulative (something moves) – Game pieces, maze tables.

9. Rocking (springing, bouncing) – Spring riders, pogo poles, seesaws

10. Sliding – All types of slides

11. Spinning – Rotators, whirls, accelerator spinners and turning bars

12. Swinging – to/fro, rotating, and stand-in swings

Be sure your playground design incorporates as many of these types as space allows to ensure a play environment that encourages and develops a wide range of skills and developmental opportunities. Remember, it isn’t always the number of play events that are on a play structure that make it good value; it is the value of the play itself.

Adapted from: www.creativechildren’sministrieskidhelper.com