Learn! Grow!

The picture at right says a lot to me. It is of my wife Marcye and my daughter Cayla. It represents what we offer as parents and caregivers and it represents what it means to be a child. We teach, we coach, we love, we encourage, we prepare in every way we possibly can... but in the end we need to just let go. Ultimately, it is the child that needs to strive, to learn, to make choices, take chances and to risk in order to achieve and grow as a healthy little person.

We are Social Entrepreneurs; and providing opportunities that help children achieve and grow in healthy ways is what we do here at Bears Playgrounds... our mission is inspired and focused:
“to create fantastic Nature Inspired Playgrounds and other products which enhance children’s environments.”

Sincerely,

Danny Bears
President
Construction Features: Bold, Strong and Built to Last Construction

Nature Inspired

With our playgrounds, we have created a “hybrid” or balance between the innocent, natural adventure of playing in the forest and the structure and safety required by today’s safety standards. We have been building “Nature Inspired Playgrounds” since long before it was trendy, because we just know it was the right thing to do. We have always understood that renewable, natural materials (i.e. TREES) are far greener than powder coated steel and melted plastic milk jugs.

To make our nature inspired playgrounds, we use Natural Materials, like our beautiful, whole, round Northern White Cedar logs with all their natural features. Our Bold, Strong and Built to Last architecture beautifies children’s spaces, while capturing their imagination.

Our Nature Inspired products and natural materials help stimulate a child’s imagination and enthusiasm for nature. In short, our products facilitate learning, help build social skills, create opportunities for exercise, and by virtue of our unique designs and materials we provide children with a unique connection to the great outdoors.

Our Log Construction is not just beautiful, it is strong too. Our posts are made from sturdy whole logs, approx 5” in diameter. Our cedar logs have a fat end and a skinny end like a tree (instead of a manufactured dowel), they have gorgeous wood grain, checking, knots, crooks, curves, etc. Those who are familiar with log construction know that it is subject to the natural process of “checking”. Checking or cracks occur across or through the growth rings as they release moisture. This is not a defect in the wood as it does not affect the structural integrity. Instead, it is considered a part of the log’s rustic natural look and adds to the uniqueness of each piece.

Mortise and Tenon (old school joinery) This classic joinery style is timeless and super strong. Rarely if ever used by the competition because it requires old school craftsmanship.

As a general rule when you see triangles used in construction you are looking at extra strength. Bears Cedar Log Playgrounds are loaded with lots and lots of overbuilt structural knee braces for a bold look and extra strength. Many of our structures and events are built for surface mount installation with in-ground anchoring to meet ASTM.

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Built to Last Construction Mortise and tenon joinery Structural knee brace with anchoring Natural taper to each log Gorgeous wood grain!
Construction features, design philosophy

Round is Good

Unlike square milled lumber, our round cedar is beautiful and baby smooth. Round logs have no sharp corners like milled lumber, just rub a dub-dub soft cedar; perfect for playgrounds. Logs are peeled, planed and sanded. Our Cedar is naturally beautiful, and does not contain any arsenic. Unlike other wood species, the qualities of our round cedar logs make it very difficult to splinter and penetrate human skin.

When it comes to natural weather resistance, our cedar is about the best you can do in natural products. To top it all off, we have chosen to add additional protection by staining your playground. The color is a beautiful, natural, semi-transparent, brown stain. It enhances the beauty of the wood and highlights the wood grain. The stain is water based and the brown pigment color helps protect against harmful UV rays in the sunniest of climates. The penetrating qualities of the stain also help to protect against snow and moisture.

Like you will find on the best built decks in America, we use modern Composite Decking materials on all of our floors, rock climb walls and other high wear areas so that even a bare footed or bare bottom baby is safe as can be.
Ways up . . .

- **Green Circle** = easiest
- **Blue Square** = intermediate
- **Black Diamond** = difficult
- **Double Black Diamond** = extremely difficult

For a complete look at our gallery of work, go to . . .

www.bearsplaygrounds.com
Ways down . . .

- 2' SUPER DUTY SLIDE
- 3' or 4' SUPER DUTY DOUBLE BEDWAY SLIDE
- 3' or 4' SUPER DUTY RIGHT TURN SLIDE
- 3' or 4' SUPER DUTY STRAIGHT SLIDE
- 3' SUPER DURY DOUBLE WIDE
- 5' or 6' SUPER DUTY WAVE
- BUMPY RIDE 4'
- 6' SUPER DUTY TUBE SLIDE
- 4' TORPEDO (without base)
- 5' or 6' TORPEDO SLIDE (with base)
- 4' TORPEDO SLIDE (with base)
- 7' TORPEDO SLIDE WITH IN-GROUND FOOTER
- TORPEDO SLIDE WITH IN-GROUND FOOTER
- FIRE POLE

For a complete look at our gallery of work, go to . . .
Ways across . . .

1. SUSPENSION BRIDGE (STANDARD NET): Any one of our Natural Playgrounds Designs that incorporate our Real Log Suspension Bridge are a big hit from day one. We enclose the sides with these wonderful nets that allow complete supervision in and visibility out.

2. BURMA BRIDGE: Often used in addition to the suspension bridge as an alternative, more difficult and exciting way across.

3. HIGH BRIDGE: The Bears Playgrounds High Bridge is custom made exclusively by the Bears Playground Crew and stretches between two upper decks. The 12’ bridge literally spans between two of our Ponderosa Playgrounds to form what we affectionately call our “Hundred Acre Wood” model.

4. BUMPY LOG BRIDGE: Our Bumpy Log Bridge is an easy, fun bridge to use because of the bumpy log texture under foot. It is framed and surfaced with our beautiful natural cedar logs. The barriers on the bridge are also made entirely of cedar logs.

For a complete look at our gallery of work, go to . . . www.bearsplaygrounds.com

Overhead Events

1. HIGHER MONKEY BARS ACROSS: custom made from scratch, for use between two decks in conjunction with the intermediate landing platform for building upper body strength, coordination and confidence. When used in conjunction with our Landing Platform they can be used to “functionally play link” other play events or for access lower deck structures. Children ages 4 and up are generally the youngest able to use monkey bars.

2. LOWER MONKEY BARS: Because this event is lower to the ground it is safer and easier to use. Get them started early!

3. RING TREK OVERHEAD CLIMBER: Great for developing upper body strength and coordination. More difficult than monkey bars.
Roofs, rails, barriers

1. WOODEN ROOFS: are beautiful, durable and provide shade for the little ones. Upgrade from our standard tarp.

2. TARP ROOFS: are waterproof and provide shade. They come standard on every Bears Playground. They are hemmed in on all four sides for extra strength and have grommets every few inches on two sides for fastening. Also available: TOP GUN MARINE CANVAS ROOFS.

3. BAMBOO ROOFS: provide shade and add a tropical look and feel.

4. BRIDGE NETS: Bridge Nets come standard on our High Bridge and our lower to the ground Suspension Bridge.

5. BARRIER NETS: Come standard around every platform that does not contain an optional activity. Our Barrier Nets provide excellent visibility in and out of the structure for supervision. Our barrier nets are made from a material similar to that used to make truck tarps and trampolines. They are super strong and durable, reinforced hem and grommets on all four sides.

6. WOODEN RAILS: Wooden Rails are a popular upgrade from our barrier nets for commercial applications because they are so strong and vandal resistant. They are also built higher than our barrier nets.

For a complete look at our gallery of work, go to www.bearsplaygrounds.com
Active Independent Play

- MINI MOUNTAIN
- LARGE MOUNTAIN
- SMALL MOUNTAIN
- PORTABLE BALANCE BEAM
- IN GROUND BALANCE BEAM
- TREE HOPPERS x 5
- TREE HUGGER
- FAUX TREE TUNNEL
- FAUX TREE STUMP HOPPERS
- MUSHROOM HOPPERS
- RUBBER MUSHROOMS
- SPRING RIDES & MOTION EVENTS

Quiet Independent Play

- TIC TAC TOE
- PAINT STATION or DRY ERASE
- 4' X 4' SAND BOX or 8 X 8 SAND BOX
- FAUX TREE TUNNEL
- FAUX TREE STUMP HOPPERS
- MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
- LOG PATH BRIDGE ON THE GROUND
- FREESTANDING LOW RISE SUSPENSION BRIDGE
- FREESTANDING BURMA BRIDGE (balance beam with training wheels)
- FREESTANDING MONKEY BARS
- FREESTANDING LOW RISE SUSPENSION BRIDGE

Linked Activities

- Green Circle = easiest
- Blue Square = Intermediate
- Black Diamond = Difficult
- Double Black Diamond = Extremely difficult

For a complete look at our gallery of work, go to www.bearsplaygrounds.com...
Swing Sets

- Log Swing Set
- Free Standing Wooden
- Steel Tire Swing
- Steel Arched Frame
- Bi-Pod Swing Set
- Commercial 1/2 Bucket
- Commercial Full Bucket
- Commercial Belt Swing
- Special Needs Swing

For a complete look at our gallery of work, go to...

Bears’ Chunky Wood Furniture

- Bench with Back
- Kid Bench
- Big Bench
- Picnic Table
- Kid Picnic Table
- Big Tree Table & Chairs
- Faux Stump Seats • Faux Log Checker Table
- Toad Stool Table and Mushroom Chairs

www.bearsplaygrounds.com
2. NATIONWIDE LONG HAUL DELIVERY & INSTALL: Some customers really like the idea of having the Bears Playground Crew do the install. Our crews are really, really good at this!!!

Usually we pack up the truck with our tools and your playground and hit the road. Sometimes we ship the playground and fly the crew in. These projects are priced on a case by case basis depending upon the details of the project. Price is usually calculated based upon our local install charge plus a calculation for mileage, hotels, etc.

Shipping and installation options

One thing our company values

as much as the quality of our products is reliable, first class installation. We are specialists, playground builders, masters of our trade. We are focused on building fantastic, nature inspired products which enhance children’s environments, period!!! So, whether the project is local or long haul, our crews are first class all the way.

1. LOCAL INSTALL: The Bears Playground Crew can bring the playground in a semi built form to your site with a mini track loader (walk behind fork lift) and tilting trailer. Pre-building the playground saves time on site and helps ensure quality. Clear access for the “pre-built” is important.

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3. NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING: We will build and pre-install large portions of your project, complete in our shop to make sure everything is just right. Then we take it apart and load it up into a really big create or two or three depending upon the project. Then we load it on a tractor trailer truck (usually common carrier, LTL or consolidated load) and send it on its way for installation by others. Sometimes the owner unloads, sometimes the installer does, depending upon the arrangements you make. Building your playground in our shop is an extra quality control step that we take to help ensure your playground is just right. It also makes it possible for us to ship you larger assembled sections, instead of a pile of lumber and a pile of hardware (like many of our competitors do).

Installation is much simpler than it may be with other brands because of this step. Shipping Dimensions and weights vary by model and specific options chosen.
**About Us**

Once upon a time and happily forever after, there was a family named Bears.

Motivated by . . .
- a genuine love of children (all children but especially ours)
- a passion for the outdoors (especially playing outdoors)
- and the sense of pride and accomplishment gained by creating and building the greatest outdoor play products in the universe . . .

. . . The Bears Playground Crew was born. Over the years it has continued to grow. The Bears Playground Crew consists of a complete team of outdoor play professionals. Danny and Marcye Bears are participating members on a technical subcommittee for the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM). ASTM writes industry standards for hundreds of industries, including playgrounds. So, while we do not write the rule book on playground safety, we certainly do help.

In addition, several members of our staff are trained and tested Certified Playground Safety Inspectors, (CPSI). We are also members of the International Playground Contractors Association, International Playground Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA) and Global Re-Leaf (an organization that plants trees for ecosystem restoration).

**Capabilities**

We like to think of ourselves as small enough to really, truly care about your project; and big enough to pull it off smoothly. Our shop is a 36,000 square foot building with five loading docks and 14’ overhead doors to make shipping nationwide a breeze. We are now able to assemble custom orders indoors, before we load up and hit the road for an installation. This helps ensure quality.

We now have an entire area dedicated to perfecting full scale, cutting edge prototypes. Our Cedar Log Playground designs are so distinctive that we have Protection Pending under Intellectual Properties Laws with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

To ensure the best possible service, we control as many of the processes and manufacture as many of the parts and pieces “in house” as possible. That means a quality experience throughout the entire process and the best possible price.

Our reputation and web site, www.BearsPlaygrounds.com, has earned us customers from coast to coast and around the world. So whether you are looking for design help, safety surfacing or just the greatest outdoor play products available, the playground crew at Bears is at your service.

The Bears Playgrounds complex in Lima, NY by phone, e mail, or in person.

Cash, Check or

By phone: 1-877-807-7529

By e-mail: info@bearsplaygrounds.com

In person:
7577 East Main, Lima NY 14485

**The Process**

“The Process” begins with a phone call or e-mail from you. We then produce a rough “concept drawing”. There is no cost or obligation for the drawing. Our concept drawing will include information like the size of the areas, itemized costs of the various components and events, shipping and / or delivery and installation cost. Drawings usually undergo revisions as more information becomes available to us, such as space available, budget, ages of children using the playground, and your preferences. The process continues until we’ve designed the perfect, customized, nature inspired playground for your needs.

Finally the drawing becomes our shop manufacturing and installation blueprint. Manufacturing through installation, all processes possible are controlled “in house.”

Yes, that’s right, we still believe that great things can be created right here in the USA.
**Warranty**

Terms and Conditions: This warranty is against defects in workmanship and materials from the date of purchase. Warranty as stated above will cover the cost of the specific replacement part only to the original owner. We make no other guarantee or warranty of any kind, including implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, with respect to the services we perform or the equipment we provide under this agreement. We are not liable to you or any other party or party for direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages. Shipping and installation cost are not included in the warranty. This warranty does not cover cosmetic issues, stain or paint, fading, light surface rust, weathering, maintenance issues. Owner or manager must follow the Operating Instructions, Maintenance Instructions & Check List. Cedar Logs and other natural wood material have natural characteristics like checking, taper in the logs from one end to the other, bends, curves, etc. These characteristics are normal, natural, and even desirable to provide organic character to each piece. They do affect structural integrity of the equipment. Warranted parts must be subject to normal use, no unusual stress is involved, no pronounced tree branches, or electrical wires. The Property owner must prevent children from using the equipment until properly and completely installed with safety surfacing. Do not use this equipment until properly installed. Warranty as stated above is for a period of 10 years from the date of purchase. This warranty only covers the structural parts of the equipment, including but not limited to: trees, beams, poles, that comprise Bears Cedar Log Playground Structures. They are covered for a period of 10 years from the date of purchase. 3 YEARS on all Hand Carved and Natural Wood Products such as Mushroom Hoppers, Tables and Chairs, Tree Hoppers, Etc. 10 YEARS STRUCTURAL WARRANTY on all Cedar Log Structural Parts, Floors / Decks, that comprise Bears Cedar Log Playground Structures. They are covered for a period of 10 years from the date of purchase. 5 YEARS on all Super Duty Plastic Slides, Steel Parts and Accessories. 3 YEARS on all Hard Carved and Natural Wood Products such as Mushroom Hoppers, Tables and Chairs, Tree Hoppers, Etc. 1 YEAR on all heavier nuts, Taps Posts, Sand Box Covers, Standard and Premium Duty Plastic Slides (and parts), Moving Parts, such as wheels, spacers, panels, and other parts not covered above.

**Operating instructions**

1. We strongly recommend that you save these instructions for future reference.
2. Bears Custom Commercial playgrounds can be specifically tailored for ages 2-5, 5-12, or 2-12. Bears always recommends separate, age appropriate structures for ages 2-5 and for 5-12.
3. The owner / operator is responsible for selecting the location of the playground. We can advise you, and provide you with drawings that show the proper safe “use zone” at your request, but the final choices is yours. Please operate equipment on level ground not less than 6” and or twice the height of the swing set pivot point, from any structure or obstruction such as a fence, building, overhanging branches, or electrical wires.
4. The Property owner must prevent children from using the equipment until proper and completely installed with safety surfacing. Do not use this equipment until properly installed.
5. Close adult supervision for children of all ages is required. Instruct children to use the equipment properly.
6. WARNING: Installation over a hard surface such as concrete, asphalt, or packed earth could result in serious injury or death from falls. The owner / operator shall maintain the protective surfacing within the use zone of each play structure in accordance with specification F1290, appropriate for the full height of each structure and specification F1991 where applicable.
7. Make certain that the playground is clearly visible for proper supervision.
8. WARNING: All playground equipment and rubber safety surfacing may become hot enough to cause burns. Check for hot surfaces before allowing children to play. Children should wear appropriate shoes at all times. When possible place equipment under shade and loose equipment such as slides to the North.
9. Instruct children not to walk too close to, in front of, behind or between moving bars.
10. WARNING: Instruct children not to twist swing chains or loop them over the top of the support bar since it may reduce the strength of the chain.
11. WARNING: Instruct children to avoid swinging empty seats.
12. WARNING: Touch children’s feet in the area of swings with their full weight on the seats.
13. WARNING: Instruct children not to use the equipment in a manner other than intended.
14. WARNING: Never allow a child to use rubber safety surfacing. Do not use this equipment until properly installed.
15. WARNING: Never allow a child to wear a spectacle or any other type of helmet when using the playground. These can present a serious strangulation hazard to children.
16. WARNING: Instruct children not to climb when equipment is wet.
17. WARNING: Varying level and seasonal nature of different parts, as they may cause a strangulation hazard.
18. WARNING: Never allow a child to climb onto roof or any other surface not intended for climbing.
19. WARNING: Never allow a child to climb out onto a roof or any other surface not intended for climbing.
20. WARNING: Never allow a child to climb out onto a roof or any other surface not intended for climbing.
21. WARNING: No child at play shall be replaced by the owner / when they no longer meet legibility requirements. Call 1-877-807-7529 or write info@bearsplaygrounds.com for replacements.

**Maintenance instructions**

- **Check list:**
  - Daily or before each use
  - At the beginning of each play season
  - Twice per month during the play season
  - Once per month during the play season
  - At the end of each play season

**Maintenance instructions & CHECK LIST:** Because the safety of this playground equipment and its suitability for use depend upon good inspection and maintenance, this check list should be strictly followed, in a systematic manner by personnel familiar with the playground. Make copies of this check list and save for your records after each inspection.

Completed by: Date

1. **Safety Surfacing:** The owner / operator is required to ensure that there is adequate safety surfacing, both depth and the size of the area or “Use Zone” to accommodate with Specification F1047 for the fall height of each structure and Specification F1116 where applicable. Do not install playground over concrete, asphalt, packed dirt, grass, carpet, or any other hard surface. A fall area on a hard surface can result in serious injury to the equipment user. Check for adequate pads provided, in a space under and around it, and the surfacing materials have not deteriorated. A fall onto a stroke absorbing surface is less likely to cause a serious stroke injury than a fall onto a hard surface. As a general rule Bears Playgrounds recommends 5’-12” of our Certified Woodchuck Multi-color of Rubber Mulch. Ensure loose fill surfacing materials are free from entraining materials that could cause injury, inhalation, or disease (dried eggs). Ensure loose fill materials are not too compressed (not rigid) and have not been displaced in heavy use areas. Rails in nets, wear areas, and install wear mats. Check for trip hazards or environmental obstacles in the use area.

2. Follow the above recommendations for safety surfacing

3. Check for good condition of the equipment such as: strings or ropes, links, to the equipment, swing loops, keeping loops, etc. Correct if needed.

4. Check all safety net fixtures, grills, nets (for tips on how), latches of all types, guard rails, post replacements, etc from the manufacturers view.

5. Check for obstructions that could prevent hazards, such as the open 5-hour, protective nets. Also check for hazardous protrusions.

6. Tighten all nuts, bolts, and other hardware as required.

7. Oil all metal moving parts

8. Check for missing or damaged protective coverings on bolts, pipes, edges, and corners. Replace if they are loose, cracked, or missing.

9. Check swing seats, ropes, cables, and chains for wear, rust, or corrosion. Replace as needed.

10. Check for missing or broken components (i.e., hand grips, protective covers, nets, etc.). Replace as needed.

11. Check to ensure no crush and sharp points or exposed moving parts.

12. Check all wood members for splits. Sand down splits, re-stain, and refinish as needed. Check at the beginning of each season. Check carefully where wood comes in contact with the ground.

13. Check need for rust on nuts. If found, sand and repaint using a non-freon based paint following the requirements of Title 17, CT Part 180.

14. Ensure the entire area has satisfactory drainage, especially in heavy use areas, especially in heavy snow areas such as under swings and at slide rails.

15. Check playground stability. Block out obstructions or stabilize as needed.

16. Check openings on playground equipment to ensure openings are greater than 3 1/2” or less than 9”. Check that there are no openings at the tops of slides that will allow strings or ropes to get caught.
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