

## Design Brief:

In addition to existing accessibility design standards (Reference links:)

<https://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/eng/content/international-best-practices-universal-design-global-review>

<https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards>

<https://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/dhhsproviders/files/2017-09/Changing-places-information-guide-and-rechnical-standard.pdf>

<https://inca.ca/en/sight-loss-info/clearing-our-path?region=bc>

## Design Brief by Parents of Students With Disabilities:

- big open plans are lauded as being great but some students find them chaotic
- a circle with an inner green space
- lots of sound deadening materials
- natural elements and natural light
- NO fluorescent lighting
- I think some don't appreciate just how impactful light can be
- Need adjustable curtains or something to dim when needed (some students benefit from bright spaces others find them to be sensory dangerous)
- each room would be couches and yogibos and a few desks for those who like desks
- a variety of ways to sit in one classroom.
- a few places that allow for escape within the classroom (little tents? something) as well.
- the noise...it's really all about having options
- some kids will thrive in those big open plan spaces and others need alternative space
- really think that is a huge part of challenging behaviours these days - nowhere to escape to
- each room could have a theme....with natural elements
- or maybe even provide modular stuff that teachers could take to make the environment their own - rather than having to buy their own stuff
- for elementary schools, I would build it with an open courtyard that the classrooms would all have a door/access to so that if a child needs to go out and get a bit of fresh air/take a break they can without the concern of them leaving the school grounds
- have some fruit trees planted in it etc so that it could be a school garden to (this would keep it protected from unwelcome wildlife to a certain degree as well
- also all new elementary schools would be built with room for daycare/before/after school care or with this available on the school grounds

- for the exterior playground I'd have more natural elements instead of the bright primary colours
  - there would also be a built in lost and found rack near the front foyer
  - small hub areas to work quietly or take a break quietly
  - get rid of automatic dryers and loud flush toilets
  - have several types of seating areas and materials
  - have lots of earth grounding spaces (bring the outdoors indoors)
  - my daughter designed her own school that would help her best last year. It was so cool. In it were little nooks/quiet alone spots where the child can escape and take a sensory/social break
  - "Escape nooks" are what my daughter needs too. If they can be built into the classroom space that is best as they don't require extra supervision. It's the need for supervision part that makes sensory rooms not available to all students who need them. My daughter uses her cubby right now covered by her jacket.
  - she likes certain classrooms in her school where there is a wall between
  - I really think that the presence of extra little rooms in a school helps the situation.
  - It makes sense that having available quiet personal spaces in a school for kids to work allow them to be included in the classroom as much as possible, but still remain as part of the school environment when breaks are needed - and before behaviours
- the classroom and the cubby rooms and the cubby room has a front and back entrance.
- Make the outside not look like a prison
  - lots of shade
  - nice fence
  - pretty looking
  - walls should be rounded
  - bathrooms should be edgefree
  - sinks should be set into counters that are forgiving
  - doors should close softly with touch sensitivity
  - Acoustics! I am sure there are ways to build rooms to enhance acoustics and eliminate the thundering, echoing loudness that some spaces have
  - and natural light - so important to both bring it in when needed and block it out when needed
  - and plenty of storage to decrease the visual clutter of a room
  - it's such a common theme it seems running thru these answers. Having control over the environment. Being able to shift it as needed
- escalate. My work place has this too. Couch rooms, and private phone rooms when I need a break from cubicle land.
- I think a courtyard in the middle of the school would be amazing. With trees and a garden. For the runners who need outdoor time this could solve the running to an unsafe area.