



## Daisy Fields Tilbury, Essex

**Client:**  
Thurrock Council

### Giving young people with disabilities their voice on additional improvements to a play space

Tilbury's Daisy Fields had already benefitted from improvements including new paths and play equipment. An opportunity for further refurbishment prompted the Spaceshaper 9-14 workshop.

#### Workshop aims

The workshop provided an opportunity to gather young people's opinions on Daisy Fields. Measuring how it works for young people with a wide range of disabilities was key, as well as stimulating design ideas.

"Children are very astute at coming up with solutions, and if they are then involved with resulting actions they can take ownership of that space," says Sylvia Yates, play strategy manager at Thurrock Council.

#### Who took part and what happened?

The half-day workshop, involving nine young people with a range of disabilities, included a one-hour site visit. "The visit was the absolute focus and the observations and comments picked up on site were really important," Sylvia explains.

**"Children are very astute at coming up with solutions, and if they are then involved with resulting actions they can take ownership of that space"**

#### What were the results?

The Spaceshaper 9-14 software displayed the group's views on themes including access and community. It showed that participants enjoyed Daisy Fields, although access was difficult for wheelchair users. Results highlighted a lack of shelter, but recognised the variety of play equipment. Ideas generated by the workshop included a special swing for wheelchair users, a "faster, higher, harder" conventional swing and improving information on site indicating the nearest toilet.

"Spaceshaper 9-14 was well prepared and provided a structure to enable children to think about how improvements could be made," says Sylvia.

Findings will help to shape forthcoming investment in Daisy Fields. "It has given us excellent information to move the development of our space forward," concludes Sylvia.

