

Bike Tracks



The track should be designed to traverse points of interest to make the riding enjoyable; encourage a sense of exploration; and extend play and learning opportunities.

Considerations

Bikes, scooters and wheeled toys are an active way of encouraging social and imaginative play. However, providing a suitable pathway or track within a playspace requires careful consideration to minimise potential conflicts of use.

Design

A bike track should be separate from other activity areas, preferably to the rear or side of the site, away from the main playspaces and access areas to buildings. Avoid disturbing quiet areas and other specific creative zones such as sandpits.

Tracks can be designed to cater for a variety of capabilities, providing for young children to ride and use push/pull toys as well as more capable and adventurous riders.

Designing a track with a one-way direction will help minimise the occurrence of collisions.

Bike tracks require a hard surface for good traction. It is recommended that the track is 1200-1500mm wide with a 1000mm circulation space provided on each side (see photo above).

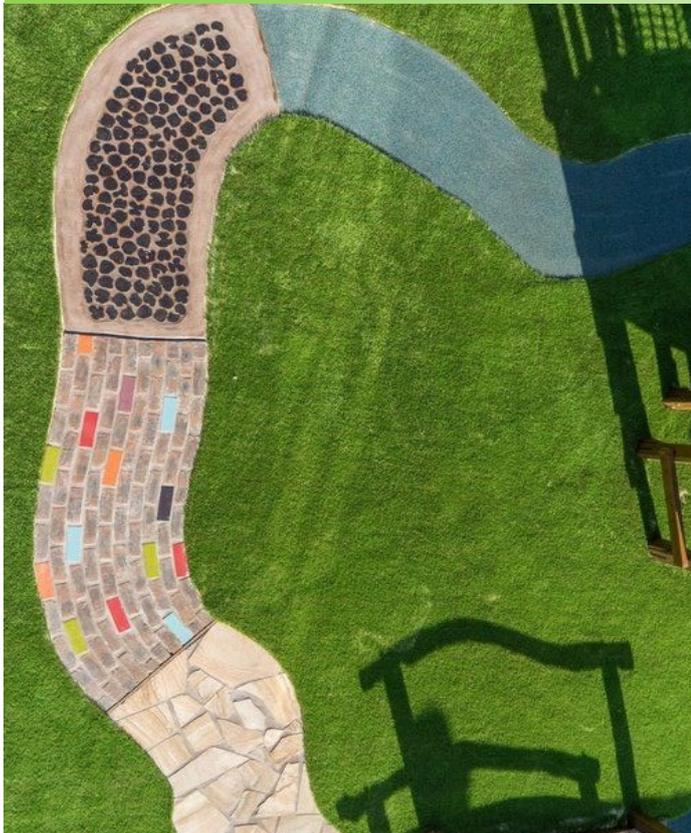
The track surface may be of variable texture to allow children the opportunity to experience both vibration and sound as they travel along the track.

Consider introducing graded levels such as humps, dips and mounds to increase the challenge.



A sensory experience can be incorporated into the track.





Surfaces

An array of surfaces can be incorporated as “rumble strips”. These can include:

- Timber sleepers laid across the width of the track
- Expansion strips laid across the width of the track
- A corrugated iron panel embedded in concrete
- A panel of pool fence or iron grille laid in concrete
- Stone flagging
- Granite cobbles
- Bricks or pavers
- Compacted crushed sandstone
- Exposed aggregate concrete
- Stamped or stencilled concrete
- Concrete or asphalt
- Wet pour rubber or rubber grid mats

Take care to avoid the introduction of trip hazards by keeping surfaces level along the track.

Whilst shade from adjacent plants and structures can reduce hot surfaces and glare, consider the final selection of track materials and colours. Darker colours are likely to absorb and retain heat.

Finishing

Edging the track with materials such as bull nosed bricks or concrete kerbing can define bike zone from the rest of the playspace. Edging may also guide users to stay on the track.

Speed humps can also be incorporated into bike tracks to vary both the profile and texture of the surface to challenge children’s skill levels as well as deter speeding.

Line markings and pedestrian crossings can be embedded into or painted onto tracks for added interest and educational value. Tracks may also feature road signs and traffic lights to enhance imaginary play, develop literacy skills and awareness of road and bike safety.



Introduce activity stations with parking bays, such as shop fronts, bus stops, petrol stations and car wash bays along the bike track to encourage role play and social interaction.

Bikes and Helmets

- Provided age appropriate bikes
- Regularly inspect and maintain bikes
- Ensure helmets are provided and fitted correctly for each child
- Consider providing a designated parking bay and helmet rack for children to return bikes and helmets to after use
- Schools and education and care services should document and implement a ‘safe use of bikes’ policy for the playspace

For information on *Kids on Wheels* visit kidsafensw.org



When purchasing a bike helmet, look for the certified product Australian Standards logo.

