

Let all children play together!

Dear Children,

Here is a little skit for you to first read and then think about. It is about children and how much they love to play! Read on.....

Characters: Arjun and Farzana, classmates, 8 years old

Scene: A public road.

Farzana: Hi Arjun , where are you going ?

Arjun: Where are *you* going ?

F: Coles Park

A: What's there?

F: It's a fun park to play.

A: (*Interested*) Oh. Are there any rides?

F: There are slides, swings, sand pit... it's lots of fun. Have you seen it?

A: No.

F: I go there every Saturday. It's lots of fun and I have made lots of new friends.

A: Oh. Can I come with you?

F: All right. Come on. You can meet my new friends too.

They start walking towards the park. Coles Park is in Fraser Town.

A: What are the names of your friends?

F: Tushar, Sarita and Imran

F: Tushar uses a wheelchair. He lets me sit in it sometimes.

(*They pause as they reach the park*)

A: Why can't he walk?

F: He got fever when he was very small and then he did not walk. He's top of his class. He helps me with my homework sometimes. (*grins*)



The children reach Coles Park, lean on the fence and look through it.

F: There he is..... (*all excited.....*)

(Points to a boy on a merry go round, laughing as it goes round and round).F: F: We do other things together too – we went for a music class the other day. Sarita was amazing – she sang so well and could grasp the music teacher's instructions before any of us could. Sarita does not mingle with us much... and her music.... it was too good!

A: Ah thats the day you came back humming a new song.

F: There they are! (*points to a girl and a boy on the swings*)

A: Those swings look different.

F: Oh that's to make sure some children who cannot sit quite well are safe and do not fall off the swing.

Have you met children like Tushar and Sarita? They are sometimes called

'children with special needs' or 'differently-abled children'. But these are really only labels - they are actually just children - who see, hear, walk, learn in their own way... They like to do the same things that all children do.... they love to play, to hear music, to work, to learn, to be with friends, to be loved.....

A: Why don't other parks have swings like this?

F: I don't know. Nobody thought of it, I guess. People only think about children like us. But there are so many children like Tushar and Sarita who love to play. Coles Park is the first inclusive park here – Inclusive means that all children can use the park without any difficulty. In this park, we have a sand table that is at a height so that children using wheelchairs can play with the sand. There is a slide with curved edges because some children may be scared of heights. There are also many other things you can play with.

Do you think there should be more parks like this ?

Would you like to meet some new friends and play with them?

Then do join us on every Saturday from August 2008 and we will have loads of fun as we all play together!

Every Saturday, from 2nd August,2008 at Coles Park, Fraser Town, from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Please contact Sumit @ 9341336517 (between 7 p.m. amd 9 p.m.) for more details and to register.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at Coles Park!

