

Eco-inclusion in playgrounds: true or false?

NOWADAYS, THERE IS A GREATER CONCERN ABOUT THE **INCLUSION** OF ALL PEOPLE. THIS CAN BE SEEN IN MANY AREAS, BUT IS THERE **ECO-INCLUSIVITY** IN **SANTANDER'S SPACES**?

WE USE FOUR EXAMPLES TO ANSWER

- 1 The first swing** cannot be used by all children. The seats are too small, there is no backrest and there are no measures for everyone's safety. For these reasons, this is a **non-inclusive** element of the playground: it doesn't allow everyone to use it.
- 2 The second swing** is bigger and more stable, but it's still difficult for all children to use if they don't need the necessary supports.
- 3 Sandy floors** of some parks (image 3) can be a **big barrier to everyone's participation**: entry, movement and play become even more complicated. In these spaces there must be well-kept paths or devices that facilitate access. In addition, in the sand there may be **residues** which are harmful to health due to the difficulty of cleaning it.
- 4** The fourth image differs from the previous ones because the material has been **reused**. Therefore, **no new plastic materials** have been required for their manufacture. Sustainable materials can also be seen in image 2, where we find a **rubber floor**, a hygienic material that **protects children** from falls. But the most important thing is that it's obtained from **recycled** tires.

In this way, we can say that **there is no real eco-inclusion in many of Santander's playgrounds**. Many cannot be used by all children, making **participation and social justice** impossible from childhood. Playgrounds should have a **variety of devices that enable different forms of play**. This means **accessibility** and **inclusion**.

Places must be built and **designed respecting human diversity**, but also the **limitations of the planet**. Most of the playgrounds are built with **unsustainable materials**, such as objects **derived from petroleum**. The problem is that these aren't recycled and there is a great **overproduction** of them that damages the planet.

In addition, the spaces aren't very safe: there are no fences for the safety of children. We believe that an **eco-inclusive place should provide security** and be a **safe environment for everyone**.





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