

ABC

in the park

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Introduction

San Marcos Children's Park located on 205 South C M Allen Parkway, San Marcos, TX. The playground area it is made out of wood, there is so much to climb such as bridges, castles, houses, spaceships, rings, swings, etc. Because of it's wooden construction, the park has a lot of visibility, which makes easier for parents to keep track of their kids. This park has picnic tables around the park and playground.

According to Kids Play Park website this park is one of the largest of its kind in the U.S. It was proposed for local mothers and constructed in 1992 in six days by a total of 4377 adults, and 1398 children from dawn to dusk. Every year the second Saturday of November all the people are invited to maintain the Park.

Research

Direct Observations.....

While I was doing the research for this park, the first thing I noticed is that kids normally are by themselves in the playground. Parents normally stay on the picnic tables and benches close to the area, but they are not totally watching or taking care of them.

When I left the park I went to the library right away, to be there almost at the same time of the day and make comparisons between these two places. For my surprise when I got to the library it was empty, there was just one family in there and that was it, no kids; even when San Marcos Public Library counts with a great area for kids.

When I compared this two places I made the assumption that in certain way the responsible of this behavior are the parents. Kids do not decide where to go or what to do.

Interviews/Surveys.....

When I was looking for information in order to know kids better, I interviewed an elementary school teacher and several parents that were in the park. I did simple questions to parents who had kids of the age range I needed.

Fernanda de los Santos , teacher in County Line Elementary in New Braunfels, said that kids does not like to read, but there are always exceptions. Kids prefer to interact with games with color, and interactive board.

At the park the ladys I interviewed told me that they always are looking for new ways for the kids to learn in an interactive way, they really like to play with ipads and colors do have influence on the learning process. Girls are faster than boys in the learning process.

Secondary Sources

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“San Marcos Children’s Park , or what my kids call Wooden Disneyland, is loads of fun.” —Ash Kelley

“I’m bummed that Austin doesn’t have a park like this, or if this does, we have yet to discover it.” —Julia (Little Austinite blog)

Objectives

The objective is to create a fun-learning environment with interactive games, for parents and kids in order to accelerate kids learning process and increase parents involvement on their kids reading development.

The park it is a place mostly identified for fun; the response of “Let’s go to the park” is totally different than “Let’s go to the library”. Texas has a high number of hispanic population which means that a lot of our kids are bilingual nowadays; these boards will have certain words in english and spanish to increase the spanish understanding for non- hispanic people.

The physical space of these instalations will be located at San Marcos Children’s Park, it has a lot of space in the play area and where the picnic tables are located, far from the bigger kids.

Design Proposal

Chalkboards will be installed all over the park where the grown-ups and kids are . On one side there will be an outlined letterforms for smaller kids to color the inside, and on the other side will be the letter with a dotted space in order for them to fill in a word that begins with. Two kids will be able to use the chalkboard at the same time because of its horizontal position.

The typeface used for this project is Museo Sans, the rounded typeface it is more attractive to kids. It is also geometrical, the counters are really rounded, straight lines, and basic forms, in order for them to learn the letterform easier. W

Typeface

Museo Rounded 700

Museo Sans it is a typeface gently unsharpened, it doesn't have italics, but it does have a very heavy 1000 weight. The spacing and kerning has been optimized for display use. Geometric and highly legible sans serif typeface, in my own opinion it is perfect for display type.

A

A de

A is for

A de

A is for

Before



After

B

B de

B is for

B de

B is for

Before



After



F F de
F is for fish
F de
F is for

Before



After





J de
J is for
J de
J is for

Conclusion

Parents care about the learning process of their kids; they use apps to try to reinforce the learning process or increase the knowledge of their kids; but when they are in the park they do not get involved with their kids. I noticed this is in some way an important part of their success, their parents support it doesn't matter where they are. The help that parents provide to kids in order to be better at school; sometimes kids find it boring, they like to interact with things whatever it is, it is better than a book.

Kids do not decide where to or not to go. It is really important to make this support or help in a fun and healthy way. Normally kids are by their own in the playground area, and parents are on the sides, on the picnic tables.

These boards in the park will be the perfect time for reading becomes enjoyable, and for parents to take care and get more involved in their learning process. It will also be an easy way to determine how much are their kids learning at school. Just with the simple fact of the boards being in the park it will be easier

for kids to recognize the letterform because it will be something that they saw unconsciously in the park, and they will recognize the letterform easily.

I went to the park to mockup my proposal and I had chalkboards and a board to photograph the reaction of the kids using these tools, and interacting with them. When I ask them to something on it; they were definitely excited about the idea. They wanted to keep drawing on them after being playing, running and jumping in the park.