

The API logo consists of the letters 'API' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'A' is red, and the 'PI' is purple. The logo is centered within a white circle that has a red border. This circle is part of a larger graphic that includes several smaller circular images of children playing on a playground. One child is on a climbing frame, another is in a ball pit, and others are on slides and swings.

API

Supporting the
UK Play Industry

How to get what you really need from a new play area

Looking to improve your playground or outdoor facilities? Need help or advice from a reputable, highly professional company? There are two important steps to getting the play and outdoor facilities you want:

1. Write a clear brief setting out all the information a play company will need to know in order to create the best solution for your school.
2. Talk to an accredited member of the Association of Play Industries (API).

Here is a 10 point guide to what to include in your brief. Remember, the more information you share, the better!

1. Your key objectives for improving your outdoor facilities and desired outcomes.
2. Whether you want brand new facilities or to refurbish existing facilities. What you have in place currently and how you use it will also be of interest.
3. When your new facilities will be used (at break times, lesson time, before/after school) and what for (free play, outdoor learning, fitness etc).
4. The age range and number of children using the facilities.
5. What type of equipment, materials or surfacing you want/don't want.
6. Any specific play values you want to see incorporated in the design e.g. physical play, social and sensory play etc.
7. Budget, timescales and whether you want all work done at the same time or in staged phases.
8. Any consultation planned e.g. with children, school council or parents.
9. Whether there is a competitive tender process and the number of companies taking part.
10. The decision-making process, key decision makers and how you would like companies to present their designs/ ideas to you.

A reputable API play company will visit your school and, where possible, meet the decision-making team. They will readily provide evidence of recent previous work, case studies and references, and will already have passed the rigorous financial checks required for API membership. Once work is complete, post installation inspection and maintenance services will be offered to ensure the safety of your facilities for years to come. Finally, they'll **definitely** want to hear how you're getting on with your new facilities and the impact they've had on your school.

For more expert advice on school play and outdoor facilities, visit <http://www.api-play.org>

Association of Play Industries

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