

Allie's all-kids playground needs community's support

Parks

Posted by:

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By Debbie Carson, Staff Writer

TEMPLE TERRACE — Five-year-old Allie Blain and her mother are making the rounds within the city, trying to find a home for a playground suitable for children with special needs.

Renee Blain, Allie's mother, is hoping to have a community meeting in the near future as a call out to civic leaders, businesses, and other parents who would like to see an all-children's inclusive playground.

The Blains had hoped to incorporate their playground idea at Linwood Park, which is undergoing renovations. But limited space and parking nixed the location.

The idea for the special needs-friendly playground for children ages 2 through 12, came after the Blains held a fund-raiser to purchase a teaching puppet for All Children's Specialty Care Clinic in Tampa. The family knew that they could do so much more for children who have life-threatening medical conditions.

Allie has a rare disease that causes her spleen to attack her blood platelets, which in turn, keeps her blood from clotting. If she were to take a stumble or otherwise get hurt, she could bleed to death.

It's the main reason why she and her parents, and older sister, Abbie, want Temple Terrace to have a playground with special equipment and materials that would help keep Allie and others with similar ailments safer when acting as they should – as children.

How to help Allie in her quest for an all-children's playground:

Renee and Allie are asking for the community's support in organizing a fund-raiser to create the playground. If you have any ideas or want to get involved, call Renee at (813) 382-0430 or e-mail her at CloudsOfHope@verizon.net.