



One of Carly's favorite things to do on the playground is scavenger hunts with her friends.



A **PLAYGROUND** for CARLY

By Chad E. Phares
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Carly W. from Rexburg, Idaho, USA, is a busy helper. At home Carly helps out by taking care of her family's cats, dogs, and chickens. Because

Carly is one of the best students in her class at school, she helps other children with math and reading. In Primary, Carly's singing helps other children to feel the Spirit.

Because Carly has done such a good job helping others, some of her friends decided to help her too.

Carly was born with a disease called spina bifida. This disease makes it hard for Carly to use all of her muscles. Doing things like walking on uneven ground and climbing up stairs can be hard for her. At school, Carly wasn't able to play on the playground because the playground equipment was hard for her to use. There were other children who also couldn't play on the playground equipment.

"Sometimes I felt bad and frustrated at recess because I couldn't play on the playground," Carly says.



Carly loves music. She is in a singing group and is learning to play the piano.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRISTINA SMITH

The rubber flooring of the playground makes it easier for Carly to walk on it.



Carly and Halli Jo (right) like to play with dolls, walk outside, and color together.

One of Carly's friends, Halli Jo, and Halli Jo's mom decided to earn money to build a playground that Carly and all the other students at the school could use.

Halli Jo, her mom, and a lot of other people worked to earn money for the new playground. It took a lot of work, but they were able to earn enough money to build a new playground that all the students could play on.

"It was a lot of hard work," Halli Jo says. "But it never made me sad to do the work—it just made me love Carly more."

Carly is happy to be able to play on the playground with her friends. She says, "I like walking up the ramps and going down the slides. Me and my friends have fun together." ■



MORE ABOUT CARLY

Carly likes to sing "Nephi's Courage" (*Children's Songbook*, 120).

Carly likes to eat chicken strips and sandwiches.

Carly sings everywhere she goes.

Carly makes friends easily.

One thing that helps Carly learn balance is riding horses.

