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## **The National Inclusion Project Partners With Bend Park & Recreation To Create Recreational Opportunities**

For the third year, the National Inclusion Project is partnering with Bend Park & Recreation District to continue Let's ALL Play inclusion in recreation programs. The partnership will allow children with developmental disabilities to enjoy successful recreation experiences in an inclusive setting. Let's ALL Play gives children with developmental disabilities the same experience as those without. Children come together with their peers to participate in recreational activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, community service, physical fitness and more. As part of this initiative, the National Inclusion Project will provide a program model, training, expertise, and an award of \$10,000.

Overwhelming evidence has shown that the implementation of Let's ALL Play improves self-esteem, social skills, confidence to participate, and sport and motor skills for children with disabilities. It also creates awareness about the diversity of individuals with disabilities and the possibilities that inclusion can bring.

“We are very excited to continue working with the National Inclusion Project,” said Amber Blanchard, BPRD Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator. “This will enable us to give more children the chance to participate in activities they and their families may have never thought possible.”

For more information contact Amber Blanchard at (541)706-6121.

**About the National Inclusion Project:** The **National Inclusion Project**, formerly the Bubel/Aiken Foundation, serves to bridge the gap that exists between young people with disabilities and the world around them. By providing curriculum, training and financial assistance, the Project partners with communities and programs in creating awareness and opportunities for full inclusion where barriers break and doors open. It is their goal to create an environment for children where inclusion is embraced. To learn more about the National Inclusion Project or ways to get involved, visit their Web site at [www.inclusionproject.org](http://www.inclusionproject.org).

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