

Tessa is a Designer

NOT GOOD AT

rolling her Rrrrs,
playing guitar

FAVE THINGS

monkey bars,
tunnel slides,
swings

CAREER

playground
designer

PATHWAY

started as a cabinet
maker, now designs
playgrounds!

INSPIRED BY

her dad, he was a
civil engineer

STUDIED

Bachelor of
Urban Design

GOOD AT

drawing, painting
and upcycling
furniture

LOVES

creating exciting
outdoor play
spaces

Capability Convos

Australian Curriculum V9.0 links for
Years 3 to 7

English

- Language
- Literacy

General Capabilities:

- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Personal and Social Capability
- Ethical Understanding
- Literacy

Learning outcomes:

All students will be able to:

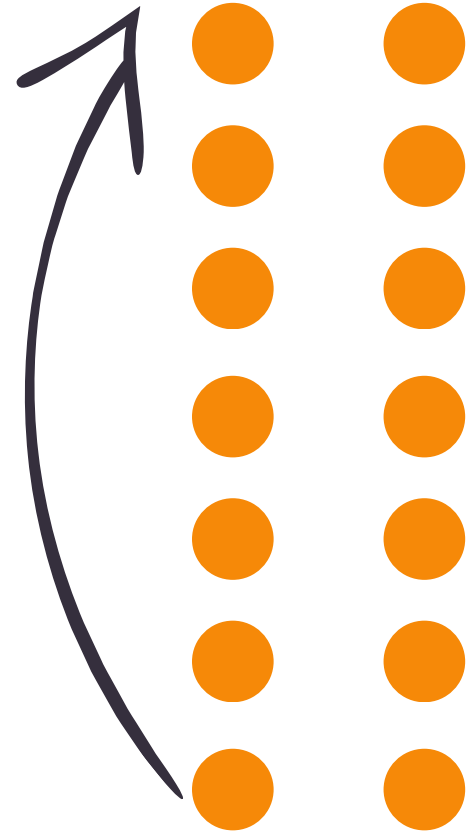
- identify some likes, dislikes, strengths, abilities and/or interests when showing a personal preference
- acknowledge that people have different needs, emotions and abilities

In addition, some students will be able to:

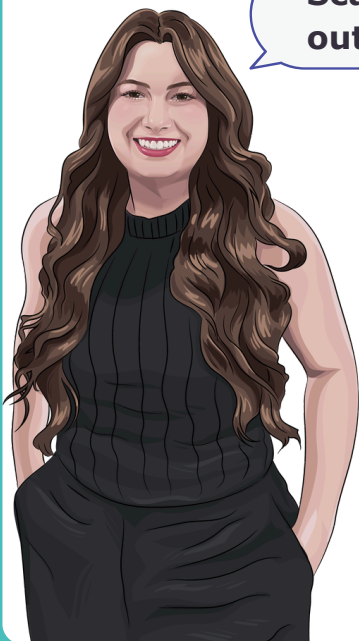
- describe the ways they are connected and can contribute to their community groups

Format

- Interactive game with 10 questions
- Easy to play
- Watch Tessa's film with the class
- Print the questions
- Play the game
- Modify or include new questions based on students' needs



Scan this QR code to find
out more about me.



Instructions for students

Line the class up in two lines facing each other to form pairs. Ask the first question. Once each pair has discussed it, get one line to move one person to their right. The person at the end runs around to the other end of the line. Then you ask the next question and repeat the process until all the questions have been asked.

Tessa Playground Designer

Question 1

What do you think is interesting about Tessa's career?

Question 6

How do you think Tessa's career contributes to society?

Question 2

What skills does Tessa have that you also have, and does she have any skills you don't have that you would like to have?

Question 7

Why is this career important in a rural or remote location?

Question 3

Why does the world need playgrounds?

Question 8

What kind of tools or technologies do you think Tessa uses in her work?

Question 4

What do you think would be the biggest challenge when designing a new playground?

Question 9

When would teamwork be important in Tessa's line of work? Can you think of an example of when you use teamwork?

Question 5

How are your current interests and hobbies similar to Tessa's hobbies and interests?

Question 10

What kind of equipment would you like to see more of in playgrounds?

Comprehension Questions

Australian Curriculum V9.0 links for Years 3 to 7

English

- Literacy

General Capabilities:

- Literacy

Learning outcomes:

All students will be able to:

- Identify that all people have strengths and weaknesses
- Actively think about what is happening in various texts as they read them
- Apply comprehension strategies to different media formats

In addition, some students will be able to:

- Identify different reasons for doing different jobs

Instructions:

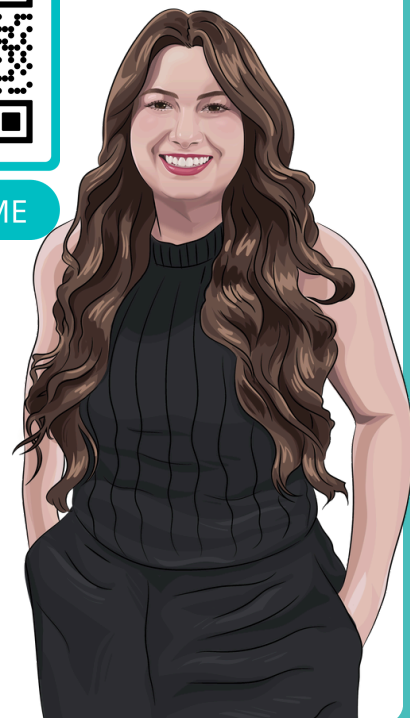
- Format/print the students' question sheets (or load them onto school LMS) and direct students to a copy.
- Read the questions as a class to start, discussing any meanings
- Discuss with the class strategies for being able to answer the questions as they learn about Tessa.
- Watch Tessa's film as a class, encouraging students to answer questions as you go

Adaptation note: Questions can be modified on the PDF to meet students' needs or learning focus areas in your classroom

Comprehension questions

1. Name two things Tessa is good at.
2. And two things Tessa isn't good at.
3. What does Tessa do for work?
4. Who was Tessa's biggest inspiration for her career pathway? And what was their job?
5. What did Tessa want to be when she was 8?
6. What does Tessa enjoy doing outside of work?
7. What subject does Tessa say there's a lot of in her job?
8. What does Tessa say you need to be in order to be an engineer?
9. What does Tessa put into every playground she designs?
10. Does Tessa say her job is solo or team-based?

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Comprehension Questions

Name two things Tessa is good at.

1.

2.

Name two things Tessa isn't good at.

1.

2.

What does Tessa do for work?

Who was Tessa's biggest inspiration for her career pathway? And what was their job?

What did Tessa want to be when she was 8?

What does Tessa enjoy doing outside of work?

1.

2.

3.

4.

What subject does Tessa say there's a lot of in her job?

What does Tessa say you need to be in order to be an engineer?

What does Tessa put into every playground she designs?

1.

2.

Does Tessa say her job is solo or team-based?

Comprehension Questions -Answer key

1. Drawing and restoring furniture
2. Rolling her Rs and playing guitar
3. She is a playground designer
4. Her dad. He was a civil engineer.
5. A designer of some sort.
6. Spending time with her cat, in the garden, out on walks or hikes with friends.
7. Maths
8. Creative
9. A challenge ladder and monkey bars
10. Team-based

Did you enjoy this free activity? We have lots more related to different STEM careers.
Explore them all at: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/future-you/pathfinders>

Playground designer

Tessa is a playground designer who loves creating challenging playgrounds that bring joy to everyone who uses them. When she finished school, Tessa didn't know what she wanted to do. She got a job as a cabinet maker, and discovered she had a passion for industrial design.

unsw.edu.au/future-you/pathfinders/tessa



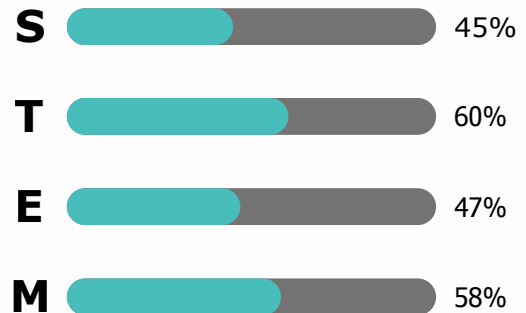
"You need to be creative to be an engineer."



SCAN ME

STEM Meter

How much Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) does this job use?



Source: jobsandskills.gov.au

Job stats and facts

Location: It's estimated 15% of industrial designers, aka playground designers, live outside capital cities.

Employment pathways: A bachelor or postgraduate degree in a related field or a vocational education and training (VET) qualification.

3 STEM skills required for this job

Complex problem solving

Communication

Computer skills

Subjects to develop these skills

Design and Technologies, Digital Technology

English, Digital Technologies, HASS, Mathematics, Science, The Arts

Digital Technology

3 other jobs that value this skill

Detective, Mechanic, General Practitioner

Social Worker, Radio Host, Financial Advisor

Software Developer, Cybersecurity, Architect

Other careers related to this line of work



People

Interior Designer
Home Inspector
Accessibility Specialist
Procurement Specialist
Human Resources Officer



Education

Carpentry Instructor
Trade School Instructor
Environmental Educator
Woodshop Teacher
Specialist Teacher



Design

Structural Design Technician
Cabinet Maker
Water Infrastructure Engineer
Carpenter
Technical Officer



Nature

Arborist
Park Ranger
Conservation Coordinator
Wetland Restoration Carpenter
Wildlife Habitat Restoration Specialist



Sustainability

Conservation Carpenter
Tiny Home Builder
Sustainable Woodworker
Geodesic Dome Builder
Nature-Based Playground Designer

The world is changing rapidly, and this means the career possibilities available to our kids are wide-ranging and exciting (and probably, don't exist yet!).

From traditional vocations to emerging fields, there are countless pathways to be explored.

Parents and teachers can create environments that encourage kids to discover and investigate possible careers that match their skills and interests.

We've included some links to other valuable resources that can help guide career conversations and explorations. Find out more at:

www.futureyouaustralia.com.au/resources/other

Playground designer

Tessa is a playground designer who loves creating challenging playgrounds that bring joy to everyone who uses them. Tessa always knew she wanted to be a designer. She just didn't know what kind! She started a trade after school and discovered her passion for industrial design.

unsw.edu.au/future-you/pathfinders/tessa



"You need to be creative to be an engineer."



SCAN ME

3 STEM skills required for this job

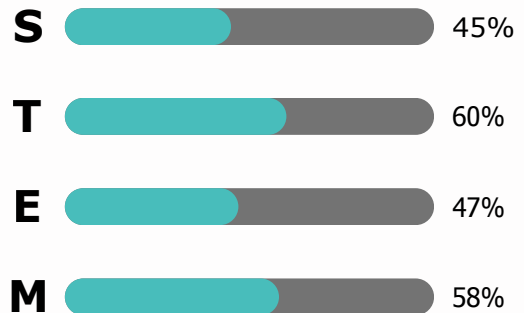
Complex problem solving

Communication

Computer skills

STEM Meter

How much Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) does this job use?



Source: jobsandskills.gov.au

5 reasons why you should do this job

- 1 Bring joy to lots of people
- 2 Be really creative
- 3 Work with interesting people
- 4 Design really cool things
- 5 Test new playgrounds

Subjects to develop these skills

Design and Technologies, Digital Technology

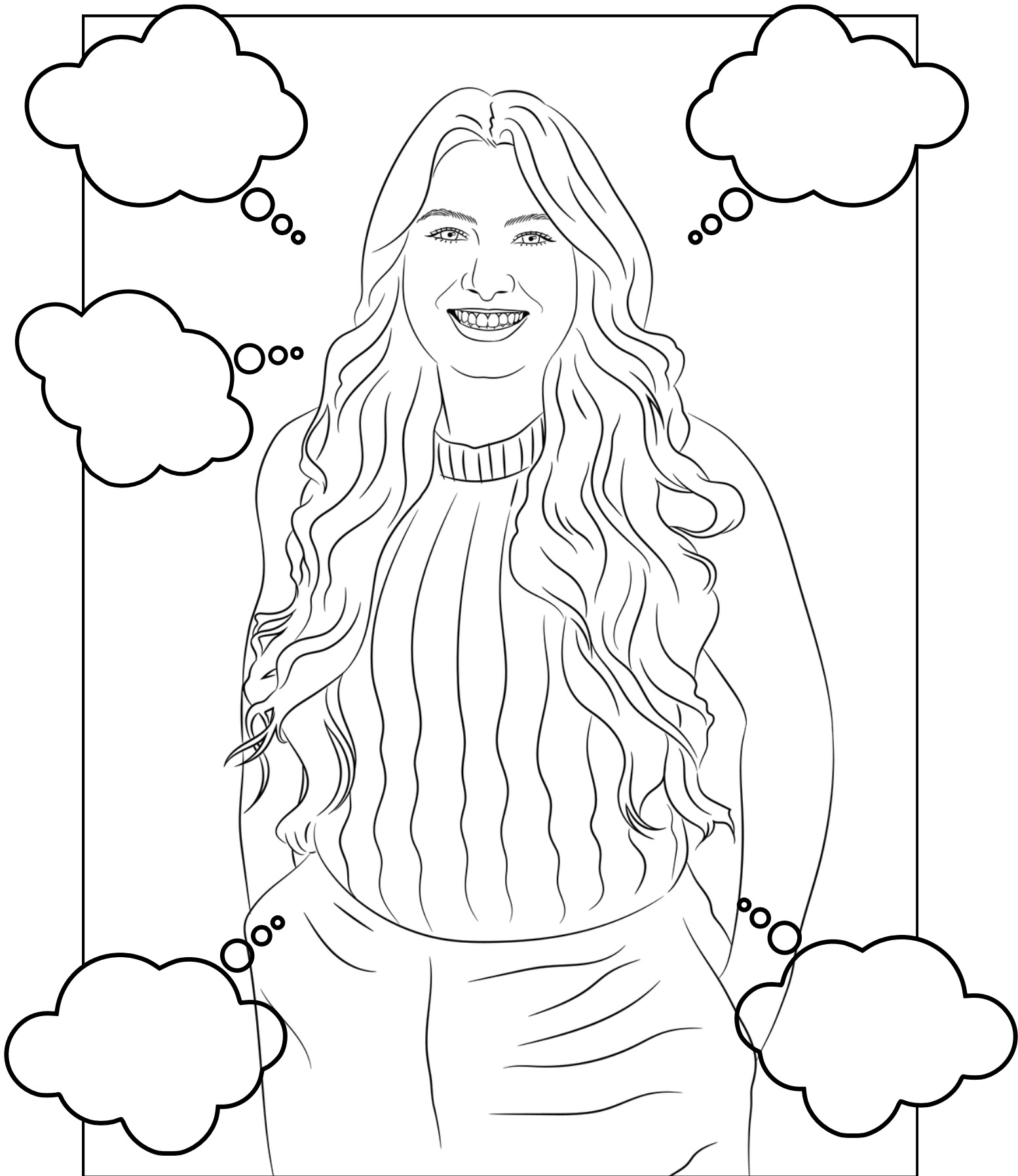
English, Digital Technologies, HASS, Mathematics, Science, The Arts

Digital Technology

An example of a day in the life of a playground designer

- 6.00am** I roll out of bed and jump into the shower. I'm not really a morning person, but work starts at 7 a.m., so I don't have a choice. I grab my overnight oats and head to work.
- 7.00am** I arrive, and the day is already underway. My office is right above the manufacturing floor, and they start work as soon as it hits 7 a.m. I head upstairs and say good morning to my team. I turn on my laptop and check my emails. I submitted a few applications to design new playgrounds, so I'm hoping one of them has been accepted.
- 9.15am** Team meeting. Time to see what everyone else is working on. Kat has been developing some new ocean-themed playground accessories. They're super cute, and I'm already thinking about some pirate playgrounds I can use them in. Anthony just did a site check for his latest playground, it's nine-metres-high! Andrew has been rendering his latest design, and we finally get to take a look. I love seeing what our team can do.
- 10.00am** I got some amazing news this morning. Two of my submissions have been accepted. I'm so happy. I put a lot of time and effort into the designs and came up with something that presented plenty of challenges but also filled a really large space. Now I get to bring it to life.
- 11.30am** I head downstairs to chat with the manufacturing team. There are a few elements in my playground designs that haven't been done before. I get their advice on a few bits and pieces. Having the team downstairs is so handy. It means I get immediate access to their expertise, and we can workshop problems together.
- Midday** It's time for lunch. Today, I have leftover vegetarian lasagna from last night. Why do leftovers always taste so good the next day? Yummy.
- 1.00pm** I'm spending my afternoon working on more applications. There are lots of schools looking at upgrading their playgrounds at the moment, which is exciting for me. I love designing new playgrounds, and I always make sure my designs include two VERY important features: tunnel slides and monkey bars.
- 2.00pm** Time to head home. Starting early means finishing early! Yay.
- 2.30pm** I get home and spend a few hours on my latest piece of art. I love being creative at work and at home. It brings me hours and hours of joy.
- 7.00pm** I head to the city to meet some friends for dinner, and we chat until far too late. It's going to be another "roll out of bed" day tomorrow. Oh well. It's worth it.

Meet Tessa. She's a playground designer who loves tunnel slides, monkey bars, and being creative. Fill in the bubbles with 5 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills she uses in her job. Which of these skills do you think is most important? Which do you think would be the hardest to develop? When you've thought of the skills, colour in the rest of the image.



Pathfinder Workwords

Answers

B D Q E R A W W P T Z B C M E P R S E Q C G G
Q P U Z Y E C O K M O N K E Y B A R S O C N N
D X T F O P N O S P M U Q X E F U F M P I I G
H O D C M H J D D M I Z K D E T H P L T H R I
G M O W A J C W E Y R Y R T I V L E N N U U S
R C O J T I P O P R T E Y M J I D I Q U Y T E
C E R R H R U R K W N Z R S A I A P Q U P C D
N A N M S A X K Z Q A U U M L P Y U B Y O A N
D F B G S J N I N X F X C S H Q Y N R L T F A
P I J I I W A N K K P E L D S T A D U R P U B
V T Y V N S I G N I R E E N I G N E T I J N R
W Y T P Y E E N Q W N G U I T A R Q V V O A U
Q C S Q H E T D G N I G N E L L A H C P L M X
T Y M J Z E E R U S J Q N A Z W S B S F J H L
T B N R D E V T Y R E S T O R A T I O N Z E G
D N U O R G Y A L P U F C C P U I D E T C Z U

Let's reflect

Were any of these words new to you? Look them up and find out what they mean.

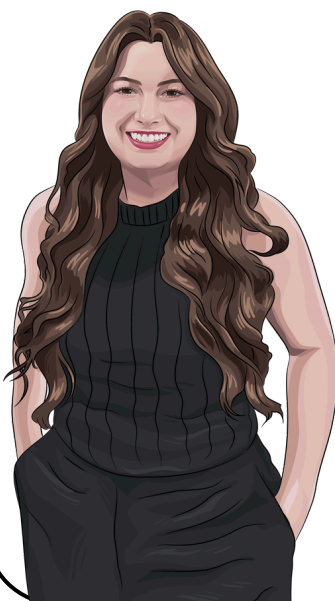
Which of these skills do you think you are best at, or would like to get better at?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Can you think of anything else Tessa might need to do her job?



The educational qualifications and levels outlined in these pathways are intended as general guidelines. To obtain accurate and up-to-date information, explore resources specific to your state or territory, available through websites like myfuture.edu.au, YourCareer.gov.au and australianapprenticeships.gov.au.

There is also a range of financial support available for students doing apprenticeships or going to university, visit www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/education to see what's available.



- Bachelor of Industrial Design: <https://www.coursesseeker.edu.au/courses>



- Certificate III in Carpentry: <https://training.gov.au/>
- Diploma of Building and Construction: <https://training.gov.au/>
- Short CAD courses: <https://www.coursera.org>



- Bachelor of Education: <https://www.coursesseeker.edu.au/>
- Graduate Certificate of Urban Design: <https://www.coursesseeker.edu.au/courses>



Remember, there are countless pathways to the same career. Each child's unique skills, interests, and strengths will guide them on their personal journey to success.

Playground designer career pathways

Find out more at www.futureyouaustralia.com.au

FUTUREyou