

A low-angle, close-up shot of a person's legs and feet as they run on a trail. The runner is wearing dark-colored running shoes with red accents and white socks. The ground is covered in dry, brown grass and small rocks. The background is a blurred, hilly landscape under a clear sky. A semi-transparent dark rectangle is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing the title and subtitle text. A small white horizontal bar is visible in the upper right corner, and a large white plus sign is in the bottom right corner.

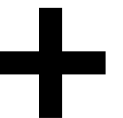
First “Step”: A Naismith Memorial Approach to Accessibility

The grade 6 class at NMPS

Introduction

Hello, we are representing the grade 6 students at Naismith Memorial Public School. Recently, we have been reading a book called “Break The Mold” and it has inspired us to take on a Real-World Learning project that would help little kids and people with Achondroplasia or, the sometimes-preferred term, little people. The book was written by Sinéad Burke and she details her life with Achondroplasia as well as taking on different barriers that people with disabilities face in their daily lives.

This “First Step” project is focused on bathroom accessibility. Little kids and little people often can’t comfortably reach many faucets in public washrooms. We have a proposal that may assist in this matter.



Introduction

Co



There is a product called the “Step ‘n Wash” that can help. The Step ‘n Wash is simple but very effective. It is a self-retracting step that installs under the sink counter in public washrooms. You simply push it down with your foot and it provides a step so you can stand high enough to wash your hands without getting your sleeves or shirt wet.

We would like to see the Step ‘n Wash in public washrooms like at the local hockey arena, splashpad, and town hall. Our goal is to also fundraise for one for our school.

The reason this is important to the community is that little people and little kids will be able to reach the sink’s counters with comfort and dignity.

We would like to be involved because it does not feel right that some must put their arms on the dirty counter. The reason we want to see greater accessibility in the community is that we can become a more welcoming, happy, and cheerful community.

Accessibility Challenges



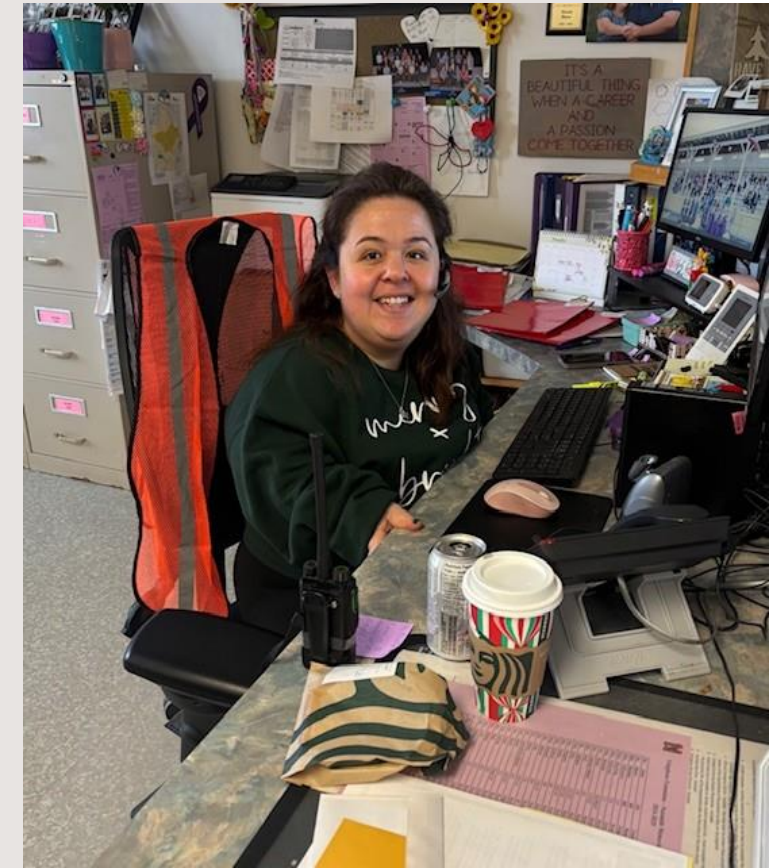
Here are some details about accessibility challenges from our interview with Mrs. Koscielski, our office administrator:

Struggles with accessibility in public washrooms:

- -sinks, soap dispensers, hand dryer, and paper towel dispensers are all too high
- -hook for her purse is out of reach
- -changing tables cannot be pulled down
- -accessible washroom's toilet is too tall

Accessibility aids that are used daily:

- -pedal extensions for her car
- -sink is lower in school's single public washroom
- -longer mirrors
- -specially designed chair for work



Sinéad Burke

Quotes



"I often forget that I'm a little person, it's the physical environment that reminds me"

"The sink, soap dispenser, hand dryer, are all out of my reach"

"Design inhibits my autonomy and my independence."

"I rely on and benefit from the kindness of strangers."

"Using a public bathroom is an excruciating experience."



Public municipally
maintained washroom
in Reggio Emilia, Italy

“It was evident in a number
of ways how the children
were part of the cultural
fabric of the community.”

-Angie Giles (RECE)

Proposed Product: Step 'n Wash



Cost: \$985.00 CAD



How it works: A pneumatic gas tube ensures safe raising and lowering.



Safety guarantee: According to their website, Step 'n Wash has had zero complaints and zero incident claims. This step stool is specifically designed for public and commercial washrooms.



Materials: the Step 'n Wash is made of high-quality stainless steel, so it doesn't rust or corrode. The rubber tread also extends to the end for anti-slip security. These materials are not a pain to clean at all.



Trusted by family-friendly companies such as: Target, Home Depot, Olive Garden, Universal Parks and Resorts, Hilton Hotels, and Boston Children's Hospital.



Simple installation: This can be installed within 15 minutes and requires little to no expertise.



Target Pilot Project

THE JOURNEY

In the summer of 2021, Target conducted a pilot program and installed Step 'n Wash in five of their stores.

Customer feedback was so **overwhelmingly positive** that by November 2021, Target embarked upon a nationwide rollout.

THE LOGISTICS

Target efficiently executed the rollout across their stores over the course of about six months.

They found Step 'n Wash to be incredibly easy to install, taking their maintenance staff about 20 minutes per installation.

THE OUTCOMES

Customer Response

The installation of Step 'n Wash across Target stores was met with great appreciation from customers.

Step 'n Wash regularly hears from Target customers who reach out just to say "thanks!".

Enhanced Accessibility

The project has notably improved restroom accessibility, aligning with Target's commitment to inclusivity and enhanced customer experiences.



Who Would Benefit?



Let's talk about who would benefit from this product:

- People with Dwarfism would benefit greatly. Achondroplasia is the most common form of Dwarfism and affects 1 in 25,000 people. The average height for a person with Achondroplasia is 4 feet, making it hard to reach the sinks in many public washrooms.
- Another group of people who would benefit are young children. Children, aged 4–6, also have an average height between 3 feet 6 inches and 4 feet.

Reaching the sink is a very difficult task for people that are shorter in stature and the “Step n Wash” is a great resource for these people.

What's good for one is good for all!

Where and Why?



We would like to see the Step 'n Wash installed at the Almonte Arena, Gemmill Park, and the Town Hall to help kids and people with disabilities, like dwarfism, comfortably access the sinks in our public washrooms.

These three buildings are our top priorities because there are many people who use these places. They are high visibility areas that will demonstrate our commitment to accessibility in the community. Proper hygiene is also very important in places that are being accessed by a lot of people in the public.



Accessibility Law and Building Code

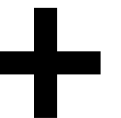
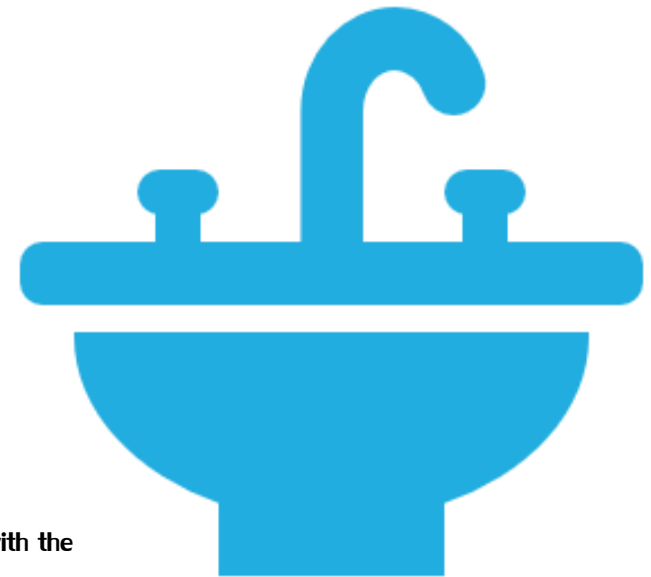
— Accessibility Law: Ontario

- Most buildings must have barrier-free washrooms in public areas. The washrooms must be situated on a barrier-free path of travel and meet Building Code requirements addressing:
 - grab bars
 - signage
 - turning space
 - counter heights*
 - doorway widths

*The height of the counters can be compensated with “Step ‘n Wash” retractable steps.

— Ontario Building Code

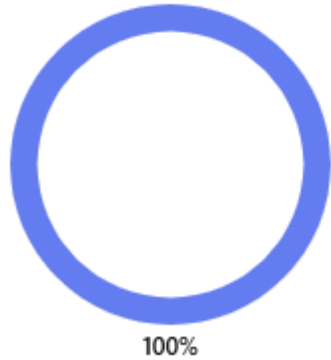
1. A *barrier-free* path of travel shall be provided to *barrier-free* washrooms designed to accommodate persons with disabilities in conformance with the requirements in Articles 3.8.3.8. to 3.8.3.12.
- Although steps to the sink are not mentioned, counter heights are. The Step “n Wash would promote more universal access to sinks in our public washrooms.
 - Most public washrooms are accessible to wheelchairs, but there are other disabilities. 1 in 15 000 to 1 in 40 000 people have achondroplasia. It wouldn’t only help people with Dwarfism though, it would help young children too.



Community Facebook Survey (47 Respondents)

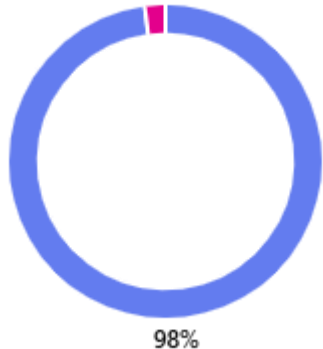
1.
Do you think public washrooms should be universally accessible?

Yes
47
No
0



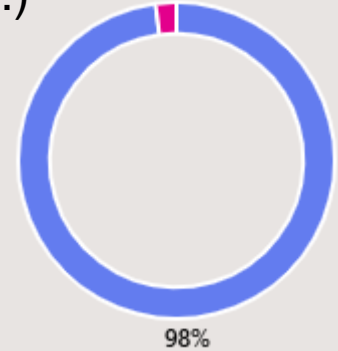
2.
Public washrooms can present an accessibility challenge with young children?

agree
46
disagree
1



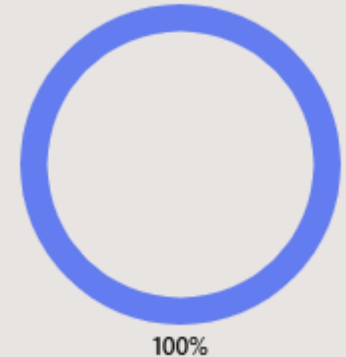
3.
Do you think the "Step N Wash" could provide a more accessible environment in public washrooms?(Step N Wash is a retractable step that can be permanently installed in public washrooms.)

Yes
46
No
1



4.
Do you agree that accessibility provides independence and independence provides dignity?

agree
47
Disagree
0



Universal Accessibility

- Universal Accessibility means making things easier to use for everyone regardless of ability.
- Universal Accessibility is important because it gives everyone a chance to be independent and participate in the world around them.
- A wheelchair ramp has a specific purpose but can also help those who struggle with stairs or people making deliveries.
- A step at a sink can help a person with dwarfism access the soap, faucet, and mirror— but it can also help a young child do the same.

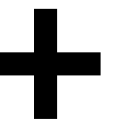
What can we do?

We can advocate for Universal Accessibility so that everyone is included.



Lead By Example

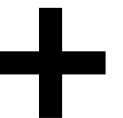
- Our immediate goal is to get a “Step 'n Wash” installed in our school, and we aim to fundraise as well as request access to Real World Learning funds.
- This shows our commitment to accessibility by addressing a real need in our school. Kindergarten students move to regular washrooms in grade 1 but often have difficulty reaching the sinks. Their hands may be clean, but their shirt and arms may get wet and dirty from reaching over the counter. Nobody wants to feel dirty after washing their hands.



Accessibility Advisory Committee

The grade 6 students at Naismith would be a great choice to assist Accessibility Advisory Committee because we are young, empathetic, and we truly care about our community. We are able to comprehend hard topics and overcome difficult challenges.

Here at Naismith Memorial Public School, we are very dedicated to any task we get assigned. We are responsible and can work both collaboratively and independently. At Naismith we learn about equity and respect. Step by step we can improve the community together.





Wrap Up

- The Step 'n Wash is an amazing product that will help people with achondroplasia as well as young children access essential hygiene services.
- We believe that accessibility for some can be accessibility for all if done correctly.
- Accessibility and dignity should be included in all design decisions in public spaces.
- As a school we would like to lead by example and have our township lead in the same way.

Thanks so much for you time!





Sources

- https://stepnwash.com/?utm_source=ga&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=keyword&gclid=Cj0KCQiAgJa6BhCOARIsAMiL7V8kcob8ZtQ9wBoFDY9-DTGh45yV0eloW847pF5-B_nYay5-NDPOYqAaAnyCEALw_wcB
- <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r13368>
- [https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/dwarfism.html#:~:text=Achondroplasia%20is%20the%20most%20common,legs%20\(called%20rhizomelic%20shortening\).](https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/dwarfism.html#:~:text=Achondroplasia%20is%20the%20most%20common,legs%20(called%20rhizomelic%20shortening).)
- https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0819/4729/6054/files/Target_Step_n_Wash_Case_Study.pdf?_gl=1*14p7s03*_ga*MTY4NTM4MDk1My4xNzI2MTkzNjE3*_ga_0BK6F6GXyF*MTcyNjQxODE0OS4zLjEuMTcyNjQyMzQ4OS41My4wLjA