

CANDLEWICK PRESS



My Dream Playground

A Note from Author

KATE M. BECKER



Every child should have a great place to play within walking distance from where they live. That is what KaBOOM! believes and why it exists. KaBOOM! is a national nonprofit that was founded by Darell Hammond.

The hero in this story is inspired by a real girl named Ashley. In 1995, Darell Hammond moved to Washington, D.C., to plan a service project for volunteers who would be attending a conference. He decided to build a playground and selected Livingston Manor in Washington, D.C., for this project. Darell planned the project so that volunteers from outside the community would work side by side with community members.

Just like the narrator of this story, Ashley ran to Darell on his first day there and showed him her designs for her dream playground. After Darell made her a project manager, Ashley collected pennies for the playground, coaxed her family and neighbors to get involved, and worked tirelessly to make the project happen.

KaBOOM! believes in the dreams and imaginations of children. When you put the power and resources of communities and local leaders behind a child's dream, there is an explosion of hope and possibility. That is what we call KaBOOM!



PHOTO BY FRANK ZHU

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KaBOOM! is a national nonprofit dedicated to saving play for America's children. Its mission is to create great playspaces through the participation and leadership of communities. Founded in 1996 by Darell Hammond, KaBOOM! envisions a great place to play within walking distance of every child. Learn more at kaboom.org.



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