



Special Olympics
West Virginia



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Your child has been selected to participate in a new program at your school called the Young Athletes developed by Special Olympics, Inc.

While Special Olympics is a year-round sports training and competition program for people with intellectual disabilities, Young Athletes is an inclusive program, meaning that it is available to all children between the ages of 2-7, with or without an intellectual disability.

Young Athletes is designed to introduce all children to the benefits of sports involvement and to prepare them for advancement into sports and competitions when they are of age. This program focuses on participation and skill development through fun and play, no competition.

Young Athletes has many benefits for your child, as well as your family, such as an increase in coordination and strength, socialization, and an awareness of self-worth and self-confidence. These are all fundamental steps each and every child should experience, especially if the child has a disability. As well as, once your child returns home, there are ideas and suggestions of everyday household items that allow you to continue the fun of the Young Athletes at home.

This program was developed in direct response to requests of families seeking to involve their young children in Special Olympics. The benefits for the family members are also remarkable. Not only does it give you the opportunity to share in the success of your child, it allows you to access resources and a network of people who share your experiences.

Attached is a brochure to give you more information about the program. You will also find a Young Athletes Registration form. Please fill it out completely and return to your child's teacher. This will allow your child to begin participation in this new and exciting program.

If you would like more information about Special Olympics, please visit our website at www.sowv.org/young-athletes or feel free to contact me at the number or email address below.

Best regards,

Wendy Miller

Wendy Miller
Director of Sports and Training
Special Olympics West Virginia

Special Olympics West Virginia
3055 Mount Vernon Road, Hurricane, WV 25526
Phone: 304.345.9310

www.sowv.org

Special Olympics - Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, Authorized and Accredited by Special Olympics, Inc. for the Benefit of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (Mental Retardation).