

Impact of the Program

"I have found a common ground -- a place where my son and I can connect through sports."

-- Parent of a Young Athlete



"The Young Athletes program gives children a sense of increased mastery and competence. It leads to more willingness to initiate interactions with peers."

-- Teacher

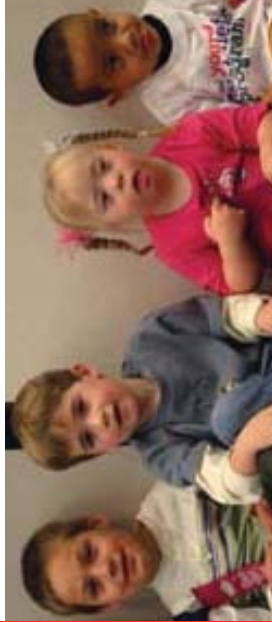


"I have changed my expectations for my child."

-- Parent of a Young Athlete

young athletes™

- The mission of Special Olympics Colorado is to provide year round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendships with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.



For more information on the Young Athlete Program, contact:

Mandi DeWitt, Program Manager

mmd@specialolympicsco.org

384 Inverness Parkway, Suite 100

Englewood, CO 80112

720.359.3117

or visit www.specialolympicsco.org

**Be a fan of our future.
Be a fan of young athletes.**

Special Olympics

Colorado

young athletes™

Program

"Growing into Greatness"



Special Olympics

Colorado

Be a fan™

**Be a fan of our future.
Be a fan of young athletes.**

young athletes™

Young Athletes is an innovative sports play program for children, ages 2 1/2 through 7, with intellectual disabilities as well as their typically developing peers. The program is designed to introduce them to the world of sports prior to Special Olympics eligibility at age eight.

Since its inception in 1968, Special Olympics has established itself as a preeminent global organization offering sports training and competition opportunities to people with intellectual disabilities ages eight and above.

Over the years, families of children too young to compete looked for avenues to join the movement. Special Olympics can now welcome these future athletes and families through **Young Athletes** -- a developmentally appropriate play program for children, ages 2 1/2 through 7, with intellectual disabilities as well as their typically developing peers.



“Growing into Greatness”



Young Athletes introduces children with intellectual disabilities and their families to the world of Special Olympics by pursuing the following goals:

- *Engage children with intellectual disabilities through developmentally appropriate play activities designed to foster physical, cognitive, and social development.*
- *Welcome family members of children with intellectual disabilities to the Special Olympics network of support.*
- *Raise awareness about the abilities of children with intellectual disabilities through inclusive peer participation, demonstrations and other events.*

Young Athletes is a versatile program that can work in various learning situations. The program is designed to be simple enough for families to play with their young athletes at home in a fun atmosphere.

It is also appropriate for preschools, schools and play groups to use with small groups of young children with and without intellectual disabilities.

The flexibility of **Young Athletes** ensures the opportunity to welcome families and their young children into the Special Olympics family.



young athletes™

Activities

- **Foundational skills**
- **Walking and running**
- **Balancing and jumping**
- **Trapping and catching**
 - **Throwing**
 - **Striking**
 - **Kicking**
- **Advanced skills**



Young Athletes Program Activity Kit includes the following items:

Activity Guide and DVD

Balls, Cones, Poles, Hoops, Floor Markers, Balance Beams, Rackets, Scarves and other fun items!

“Growing into Greatness”