

Kicking Skills

Dear Family,

A ball is one of the most popular children's toys, and it's no wonder. You can roll it, catch it, strike it, kick it and more. That amounts to hours and hours of entertaining physical activity and playtime. As we focus on **kicking skills**, your child will gain abilities sure to enhance his or her participation in playtime activities at home, at school and in the community.

Motor skills are only part of what is needed for success in sport and play activities, though. Following rules and directions is another essential element. We reinforce **responsible decision-making** whenever we practice Young Athletes activities. Like other **social-emotional skills**, learning about the importance of making good decisions is a lesson that has lifelong relevance. You can support this learning by talking with your child about rules or safety tips before practicing Young Athletes activities at home. For example, before kicking a ball back and forth with your child, discuss the importance of playing in an open area where the ball can't hit breakable objects. It's a simple way to help set the stage for a lifetime of thoughtful choices.

Sincerely,

Teacher

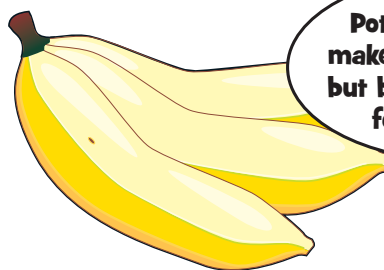


Kicking a ball requires balance and eye-foot coordination.



Healthy Habits

It's never too early to teach your child about good nutrition. Point out how nutritious foods help our bodies grow and stay fit, while junk foods don't. Guide your child to select healthy snacks, and praise his or her good choices.



Potato chips don't make strong muscles, but bananas are good for your body.



Long-Lasting Impact

The benefits from Young Athletes continue even after participation ends. At 5- and 10-month follow-ups, children who participated in Young Athletes maintained a 4-month advantage in development.



Class News