

## Trapping and Catching Skills

Dear Family,

Our Young Athletes activities continue to be wonderful learning experiences. We've been walking, running, balancing, jumping and more. Now we're introducing **trapping and catching skills**. Trapping is stopping a ball with the body and not hands, while catching is stopping a ball with just hands. Both skills require **strength, balance and hand-eye coordination**. That sounds complex, but we start with basic activities and build on each child's success. There is no failure in Young Athletes; we encourage children to have fun as they try new skills.

When it comes to fun, catching bubbles tops the list for many young children. Playing with bubbles is an entertaining activity for the entire family. It's also a no-fail way to strengthen hand-eye coordination. Blow bubbles toward your child and invite him or her to catch them. Ask your child to try catching bubbles with two hands and then with one. To reinforce language skills, say "Pop!" when a bubble bursts and "Splat!" when a bubble touches the ground. Playtimes like this are not only memorable for everyone involved, but they also help your child develop valuable skills.

Sincerely,

---

Teacher



Children need strength and balance to trap and catch a ball.



### Healthy Habits

Playtime is even more enjoyable for a child when others join in. Invite siblings and other children in your community to play. There's no need for expensive equipment; just grab a ball or two and have children roll, toss and bounce. Everyone benefits by getting fit, learning acceptance, and gaining group play skills such as sharing and taking turns.



### Lessons for Life

Physical activity is not only a great way to spend free time; it's good for you! That's a message children learn from Young Athletes. The program prepares children for Special Olympics activities that they can participate in when they are older. It also sets the stage for a life of physical activity and friendships.



### Class News