



For Immediate Release

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Worcester, Massachusetts – Special Olympics Massachusetts will host a “Young Athletes Day” on Saturday April 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Worcester State College Student Center. Over 30 children ranging in age from ages 3-7 with special needs are expected to attend.

Young Athletes is a new program being introduced to Special Olympics Massachusetts for athletes aged 3-7. Young Athletes™ is an innovative sports play program for children with intellectual disabilities, designed to introduce them to the world of sports prior to Special Olympics eligibility at age 8.

The Young Athletes program strengthens physical development and self-esteem for children ages 2 through 7 by building skills for future sports participation and socialization. Family members and caregivers also are encouraged to become involved as the child learns success through physical activity.

There are 10,708 Special Olympics athletes in Massachusetts and more than one million athletes worldwide. Special Olympics contributes to the physical, social and psychological development of people with intellectual disabilities. Through successful experiences in sports, athletes gain confidence and build positive self-images, which go with them into their homes, classrooms, jobs and communities.

Schedule of Events:

Saturday April 19th
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Worcester State College Student Center.

For more information on Young Athletes please visit our website at www.specialolympicsma.org/west or call 413-747-8946.

The Young Athletes program in Massachusetts is presented by Bank of New York Mellon.

ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics is an international year-round program of sports training and competition for individuals with intellectual disabilities. More than one million athletes in over 160 countries train and compete in 26 Olympic-type summer and winter sports. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to develop fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy as they participate in the sharing of gifts and friendship with other athletes, their families and the community. There is no cost to participate in Special Olympics. Visit online at www.SpecialOlympicsMA.org.