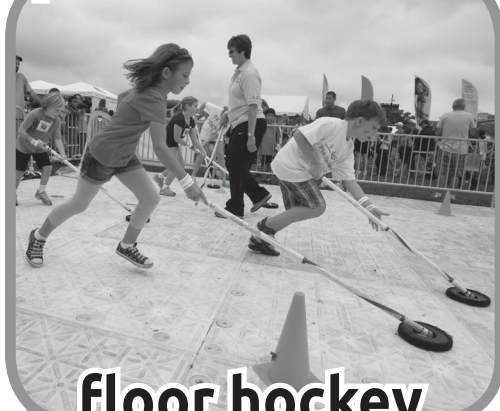




Sport-of-the-Month



floor hockey

Floor hockey is generally played in the style of ice hockey, except that the game takes place on a flat floor surface such as a basketball court. Players on each team attempt to shoot a ball or puck into a goal using sticks, usually with a curved end.

Dear Family,

As you know, a community's strength is based on the diversity of its individual members. It's easy to see diversity within any team in popular sports; a winning team makes the best of its diversity. This month the Special Olympics sport of floor hockey will provide a framework for our discussions about diversity.

In our class this month, our goals include

- Understanding the meaning of the word *diversity*
- Understanding the importance of diversity in the classroom and communities of all types
- Examining diversity in the classroom and the school community

teacher signature

PS: Next month our class will host a special event. "Spread the Word to End the Word" is a nationwide campaign to stop the use of the *R*-word, which refers to *retard(ed)*. This term is hurtful to those with intellectual disabilities. Make your house a no *R*-word zone!

This month's theme: **diversity**

We'll begin the month with a challenging exercise that tests students' understanding of what it feels like to have an advantage on a surprise quiz. This exercise will be an important reference point for our activities through the remainder of the month.

Next, students will answer questions about people with intellectual disabilities, based on their existing knowledge and perceptions. Then we'll create a list of questions about people with intellectual disabilities for which we'd like to learn the answers. Once the class list has been developed, we'll begin a research project that encourages students to use a variety of resources to answer their questions.



What you can do:



Special Olympics events take place throughout the year in locations across the country. Right now, Special Olympics athletes in your community are training and competing. There are two great ways in which you can get involved. First, you can be a Fan in the Stands, attending Special Olympics events in your community to support the efforts of athletes with intellectual disabilities. Second, every Special Olympics athlete and team needs a support system of coaches and volunteers. Whether you are an athlete yourself, have an interest in a particular team or individual sport, or just want to help, Special Olympics can use your support. For more information on becoming a coach or official, visit <http://www.specialolympics.org/educators>.

Demonstrating your support for athletes with intellectual disabilities is a tremendous example to set for your child. Your child and his or her friends will see firsthand that a community supports the diversity of its individuals, the very diversity that gives a community its strength.