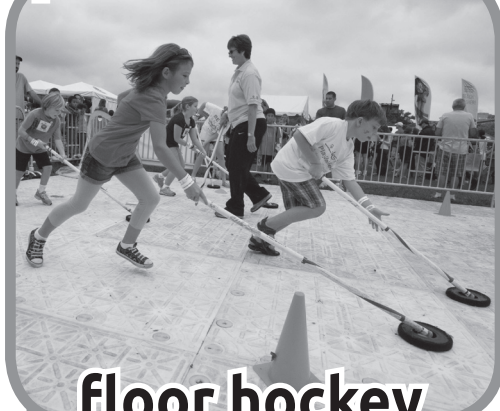




Sport-of-the-Month



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

This month's theme: **diversity**

Using our graphing and artistic skills, this month we will examine the many ways in which our tight-knit learning community—our class—is made up of many different individuals. Students will be encouraged to depict the many subgroups into which they can be placed, such as students who have a particular hair color, students who have a cat, or students who like broccoli. We'll work together to show each other how these elements come together to paint a vibrant class picture.

Also, we'll examine Special Olympics' slideshow titled "The Power of Sports" available at <http://www.specialolympics.com/educators>. This slideshow presents an easy 12-slide overview of Special Olympics and the diversity of its participants and volunteers. After reviewing the slideshow, we'll brainstorm ways to celebrate the diversity in our classroom, grade, and school community.



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.