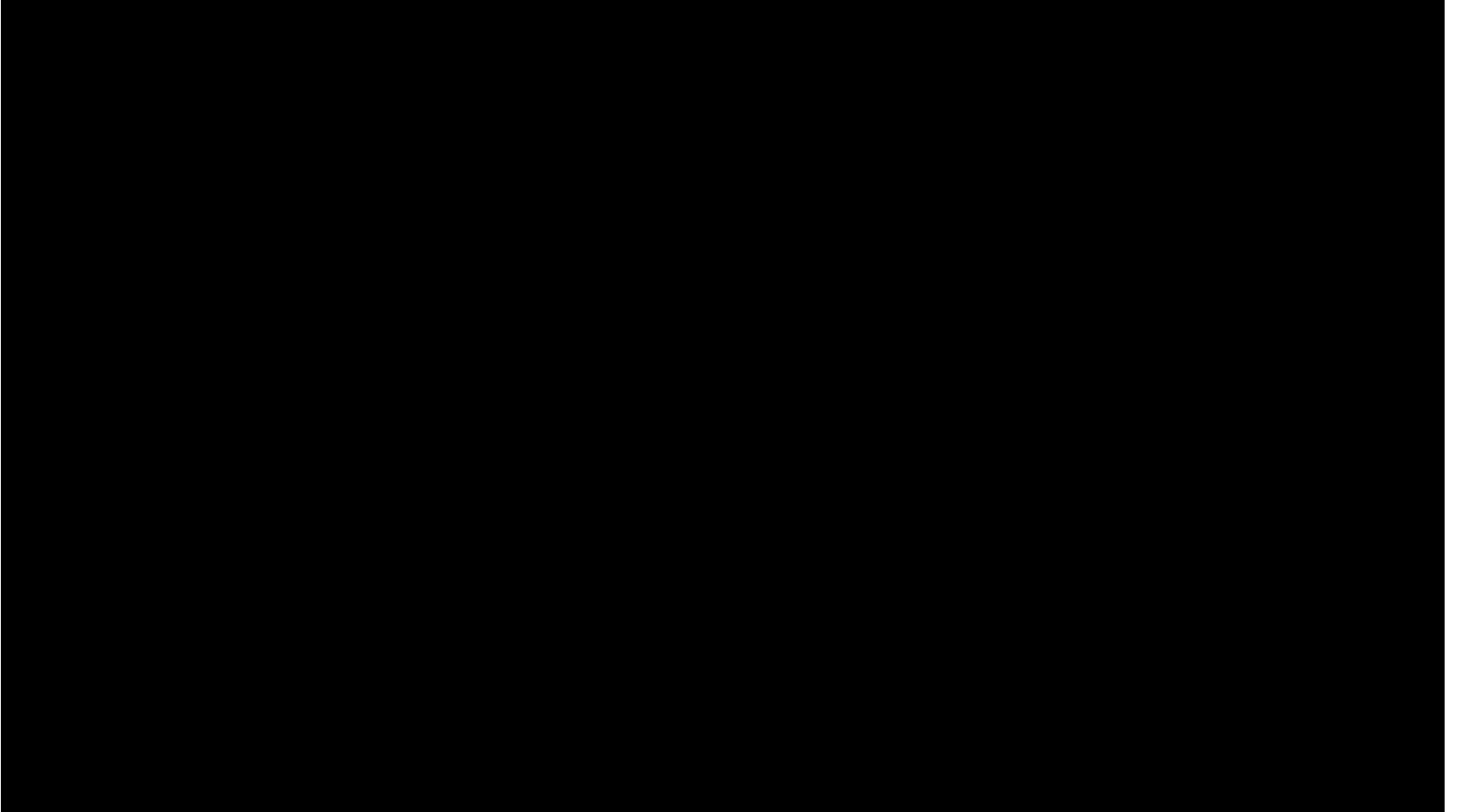


How to Develop and Facilitate a Modified Sports Program for Children with Disabilities

Matthew D. Lucas, Ed.D.

Slide Show



What programs are for children with disabilities in your area?



- Please write them on notecard
- Share with your neighbor
- Have you ever been to an event?
- Also, what does this presentation mean to you?

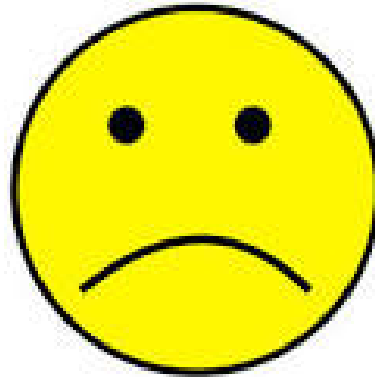
One of the Few Opportunities

One of the few opportunities that are sometimes available to children with disabilities in rural areas may include Special Olympics.

What would be the barriers of
Special Olympics?



Special Olympics are Just for
Individuals with
Intellectual Disabilities (Special
Olympics, 2016).



What Are the Benefits of Children Successfully Participating in Sport?



- Please write them on notecard
- Please share with your neighbor

Benefits of Sport and Recreation Programs for Children with Disabilities

Benefits

- Health and fitness – secondary conditions can be minimized [a child with a visual impairment simply getting exercise].
- Psychological value – sport and recreation programs often begins the road to fulfillment when people realize that activity can be maintained.
- Societal benefits - public awareness of capabilities occurs through the medium of sport and integration of athletes with and without disabilities.
- Sport for sport's sake - participation for the sake of enjoyment (Winnick, 2011)

Letter from Parent



Editor, The Herald:

I would like to thank Matt Lucas with all he has done for my child, Amanda, with the Challenger Little League program. As a parent of a special needs child, there are limited programs geared to the needs of a special needs child. Ask any parent of such a child and you will find that, while there are a few programs available, they are scattered and sadly lacking the support and funding needed. It isn't until you enter the realm of special needs that you realize how limited society has placed any thought on the real needs of these wonderful children.

As parents, we see the looks, hear the remarks and suffer through the struggles in having our children accepted as any other child. Mr. Lucas is truly an unsung hero. Every child that participates in the Challenger program is not seen or treated as handicapped, they are just kids coming out to learn and have fun playing baseball. The volunteers, which are teachers, Longwood and high school students and, of course, Mr. Lucas, show the true meaning of what it takes to "Love thy neighbor." They love and make the kids feel like kids and the parents get the wonderful realization that they aren't alone as they get the opportunity to get to know all the other parents of these truly special children. Thank you, Matt Lucas. Thank you and I know God will continue to bless you for the wonderful work you do.

Edgar Critzer
Keysville

What would be the goals of your program?



- Please write them on notecard
- Please share with your neighbor

Goals (Programs I Have Set Up)

- 1) **benefits to the children have been observed**
????????????????
- 2) **an adequate number of children participating**
????????????????
- 3) **enough volunteers to allow the program to run smoothly allowing for success of the participants**
????????????????
- 4) **an increase in the number of children signed up following the first few seasons**
????????????????



What would be the barriers of a program?



Barriers

Children with disabilities and their parents want the same youth sports opportunities as children without disabilities but Moran and Block (2009) identified four barriers including:

- leader of programs fear liability/do not know how to accommodate
- (2) coaches lack of knowledge and training
- (3) parent and child fears
- (4) lack of appropriate programs (Kleinert, Miracle, & Sheppard-Jones, 2007)

Note: As a result of healthcare costs, families caring for these children are more likely to experience various economic hardships than other families with children without disabilities (Fremstad and Vallas, 2012)

Possible Programs

- Dixie
- Challenger
- Miracle League
- Special Olympics

Very Important

- Negligence is “the failure to act as a reasonably prudent person would act in the same or similar circumstances”. To prove negligence, five factors must be present:
 - Duty
 - Breach of duty
 - Injury occurred
 - Causal relationship
 - Foreseeability (Kovar, Combs, Cambell, Napper-Owen & Worrell, 2012).



It should be remembered that even though the team has insurance, the league and/or coaches can still be held liable for certain actions or non-actions. Negligence of a coach or administrator can lead to legal consequences and more importantly to the injury of individuals.

Developing Programs in Your Area?



Partner – How Would You?

- Identifying and Recruiting Children with Disabilities
- Registration/Insurance
- Funding/Grants
- Advertisement
- Contact Information & Ordering of Shirts/Uniforms
- Use of Facilities and Equipment
- Volunteers
- Running a Session
- Assessment of Program

Developing Programs in your Area

- Assess the Need - What is missing for Children? ✓
- Goals of Programs ✓
- Identifying and Recruiting Children with Disabilities (next slide)
- Registration/Insurance – Use Local Rec Programs
- Funding/Grants – Use Local Rec Programs & Kiwanis Grants
- Advertisement - farmvillemodifiedsports.wordpress.com
- Contact Information & Ordering of Shirts/Uniforms
- Use of Facilities and Equipment
- Volunteers – background check
- Running a Session
- Assessment of Program

Buddy Baseball



Adaptive Dixie T-ball league!

Our season will begin March 30th!



This special league provides all children the opportunity to play t-ball. The “games” are non-competitive with the objective being that each player will experience the sport & being part of a team while having a great time!

Play is individualized to each player-some use a tee to hit the ball, others have the ball pitched to them. Some players receive one-to-one assistance, others have a bit less assistance-all aspects are according to the players needs! Challenger T-Ball is a division of Little League.



“Games” will be held Saturday mornings at the Field of Dreams in Prince Edward County. Please contact us ASAP for more information!

Contact Matt Lucas at 434-395-2538 or at lucasm@longwood.edu



Conclusion



- Youth recreation programs, including after school programs, individual, and team sports for most children in the United States are everywhere.
- Children with disabilities and their parents want the same opportunities as other children to gain the many positive benefits of such sport recreation programs.
- ***It should be noted that in terms of the goals of the program, there has been an 1) increase in the number of children signed up following the first few seasons, 2) an increase in the number of children that regularly show up for the activities, 3) enough volunteers to allow the program to run smoothly allowing for success of the participants, and 4) potential benefits to the children have been observed.***

Questions

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