



# Skating School & Academy Classes

## Learn to Skate - Frequently Asked Questions

***Q: Are helmets required for class? What kind of helmet is acceptable?***

**A:** Helmets, such as a bike helmet or an HECC (Hockey Equipment Certification Council) helmet, are recommended for children under the age of six.

***Q: Are there rental skates available for class?***

**A:** Rental skates are available on a first come, first served basis and are included in enrollment for class participants.

***Q: What size and type of skates should my child wear?***

**A:** Any single blade skate is appropriate however hockey skates can be more challenging to a beginner because of the blade shape. Sizing varies depending on the manufacturer and type of skates and therefore there is no general rule. If you are using rental skates, be sure to come early to allow time to find the right fit. If you are purchasing skates, it's best to be fitted or at least have the skater try them on in the store.

***Q: Where can I purchase skates and skating apparel?***

**A:** Gear Up Skate Supply offers entry level skates and apparel. The pro shop staff and our coaches may assist you in helping fit your child for skates. Online stores sometime offer sales and there are a lot of used skates and apparel on eBay. To ensure a good investment, it is recommended to talk to your child's coach and ask before purchasing skates. When purchasing skates, it is important that they fit snug and are not too advanced for your child.

***Q: Where can I get my child's skate sharpened?***

**A:** Gear Up Skate Supply is able to help you. Know your skating level and they can recommend a hollow for your skates, or talk to your coach.

***Q: How do I put the skates on my child?***

**A:** Make sure that the skater's foot is fully in the boot by asking them to stand up in the skate. Also, because they look alike, make sure the skates are on the correct feet. Just as you would a work boot, tighten the laces over the foot so they are snug and don't pull if you run your finger over them. Work your way all the way up to the top making sure that all hooks or loops are used then tie the laces like you would a shoe. For further assistance, please see a staff member.

***Q: What should I do if my child has never skated before?***

**A:** Many of our skaters have never skated before and this will be their first experience. Arrive 15 to 20 minutes early to allow enough time to get skates on and find your class. While waiting for your class, have the child march in the skates to help learn balance (be sure to stay on the rubber mats to protect the blades). All introductory classes (Snowplow Sam 1, Basic 1, and Adult 1) begin off the ice.

***Q: What is the appropriate attire for classes?***

**A:** Skaters should wear long pants and sleeves, gloves or mittens. Layers are recommended. Water proof pants can be beneficial to beginners as they will spend time on the ice, although thick snowpants can hinder movement. Avoid shorts, jeans, and be sure to wear socks. Long hair should be pulled back to not obstruct vision.

***Q: Are there weather related class cancellations?***

**A:** Generally, classes are not cancelled for weather. Should classes need to be cancelled, reasonable efforts will be made to notify participants and provide reasonable accommodations. We will contact via participants through emails and on Facebook.



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***Q: Can I pay for just one class?***

**A:** Class Walk-Ons are only permitted at the discretion of the Skating Director and for this reason, may not be allowed. Should the Skating Director allow entrance to a class as a Walk On, the fee to walk on to a Learn to Skate or Figure Skating Academy class is \$30.00.

***Q: Is there an incentive to sign-up early or for classes?***

**A:** Classes can fill and sometimes class times closeout altogether. Therefore, to ensure your space in the class of your choice, register for classes at least a week prior to the first day of class. Doing so earns you 4 Early Bird passes, each good for a public session during your duration of classes.

***Q: Do you offer a multi-sibling discount?***

**A:** Enrollment for the first skater in a family is full price, \$135. Each subsequent member receives a \$10 discount, \$115. This is not applicable to be used in conjunction with any other discounts.

***Q: What is the make-up policy for classes?***

**A:** Make ups may be made on the alternate day of class.

***Q: In general, what time should I show up at the rink prior to my lesson time?***

**A:** Please arrive 15 to 20 minutes prior to class start time. If you need to register or utilize rental skates, please allow more time to do so.

***Q: Are there other skaters/classes out on the ice during my child's lessons?***

**A:** Because the ice surface is large, we can accommodate several classes on the ice at one time. These different classes allow us to separate skaters into like groups of ability and age and support participants as they learn and master skills.

***Q: How many skaters are in a class and what is the student to teacher ratio?***

**A:** We do our best to provide instructor to student ratios that promote a successful class environment. Generally, class sizes and instructor to student ratios will vary depending on the level and the number of registrants. The average ratio is 1 to 10 with more teachers assigned to Snowplow Sam classes which serve a younger age group.

***Q: How will my child know where to go on the ice for class?***

**A:** There are signs hanging on the rink glass outside of the lane where your class will meet. Staff will be on site to assist participants to their classes.