



Additional resources for your skating journey

Your skating director and instructor are your best go-tos to answer your questions. But where do you go when they are unavailable?

Learntoskateusa.com. Use this to learn of the variety of programs, one that's just right for your child.

The SkateCoach APP: Use this in helping your child master a particular skill.

Learn to Skate

Frequently Asked Questions

LEARN TO SKATE PROGRAM PROGRESSION

Q: *What skills will my child learn in their class?*

A: Class criteria, skill sets and the program progression chart can be found at learntoskateusa.com. Instructors work with and encourage our child to simplify core

Q: *How many sessions will it take for my child to progress to the next class level?*

A: Typically kids advance after one or two sessions. But every student is unique and will progress at his or own pace, possibly going through spurts of progress followed by plateaus. Just remember to tell students that this is fun and remember that mastering a skill set may take time until they are comfortable on the ice and ready to advance. Please ask your class instructor and/or the Skating Director with questions about progress.

Q: *Is there an appropriate time to talk with my child's class teacher?*

A: Instructors may be available to discuss your questions before or after class depending on how programs are scheduled in your arena. You can also contact the Skating Director who may also assist you or pass on your contact information.

Q: *My child eventually wants to play hockey. What is the procedure that we follow to get him/her into that program?*

A: All skaters need to learn to skate before they can be in pre-hockey. The fun, positive atmosphere prepares participants for future hockey by having them properly complete the Learn to Skate classes. Once they do so, we recommend registering your child for Pre-Hockey where they will have fun learning the basics.

Q: *My child eventually wants to get into figure skating. What is the procedure that we follow to get him/her into that program? Who should I speak to about figure skating?*

A: The fun, positive atmosphere of classes through Learn to Skate properly prepares your child for a future in figure skating. Once these classes are successfully completed, they will have fun learning the basics of figure skating. Speak to your Skating Director for more information.

Q: *Can I get supplemental private lessons for my child to help him/her progress quicker in classes?*

A: Yes. Most programs have instructors who teach private lessons and some also have specialized programs to facilitate one-on-one instruction. Skating Directors can refer you to the right instructor or program.

PREPARING FOR CLASSES

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

A: Participants enrolled in Learn to Skate classes are not required to wear a helmet, however they are recommended for children under the age of six. Only in Pre-Hockey programs are they required to wear HECC (Hockey Equipment Certification Council) helmet with a mask or cage.

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. If your child's using rental skates, come early to allow time to find the right fit. If you're purchasing skates, make sure your child is there to try on the skates in the store. Sizing varies depending on the manufacturer and type of skates.

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. Most athletic stores carry skates while skating attire can be purchased at skating or dance stores or even online. 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: *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. Make sure the skates are on the right feet. 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: *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.

ON THE ICE: SKATERS, TEACHERS AND LESSONS

Q: *What can I expect to happen on the first day of class? What is the procedure for checking in?*

A: Arrive 15-20 minutes early, and check-in at the front desk. You will then proceed to the Learn-to-Skate table in the lobby, where you will receive your name badges, and the Skating Director will be available to direct you to your coach and answer any questions. You will receive your rental skates from the Skate Rental booth, and coaches and staff will be available to help teach you how to tie your skates. Please remember to turn your name badges back in at the end of class.

Q: *How are the classes grouped together?*

A: The class levels in our curriculum represent skill sets appropriate for the ages and abilities listed. These skill sets often are building blocks for skills in later levels. Skating Directors may

combine or split the registrants of class levels to create groups that allow classes to run and/or participants with like age and ability to learn in a more comfortable environment. Changes are most often solidified by week two.

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

A: Skaters should wear long pants and sleeves, gloves or mittens. Layers are recommended. Waterproof 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: *My student missed a class, what should we do?*

A: We have classes on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings, so if your skater misses a class, they should make it up on the alternate day. We do not offer refunds for missed classes.