

The North Kingstown Recreation department offers a program for kids 18 months through Pre-K called Busy Bodies. This program consists of classes that focus on age appropriate developmental skills. These skills include but are not limited to: fine motor, gross motor, coordination, balance, strengthening, social, academic, classroom behavior, working together, etc. All skills are developed through activities in which the child is playing in a gym like area.

Classes are made up by age but age is just a guideline.

Personality, likes, dislikes, strengths, weaknesses, and parents all play a role in placing the child in the class that he/she will get the most out of but still seeing it as all fun. Classes are 45 minutes long and run for five week sessions at the community center. Classes are made up of usually 6 - 10 kids but can run with a minimum of 4 and as many as 12 in the older groups.

Classes are structured and the child must stay with the class and the activity being done at the time. Classes with children from 18 months  $-2\frac{1}{2}$  are parent/child with the parent being responsible for behavior and participation of the child. After that, parents are welcome to sit out provided their child has no problems following the routine and understanding the activity. Parents are free to jump in whenever their child is struggling with any part of the class or just needs the moral support. This allows me to continue on with the activity at hand and not lose the attention of the class while I stop to focus on 1 child. The 18 months -2 class is less structured. We focus more on making the child comfortable and confident with the instructors, the surroundings, and the equipment we use. This class is an introduction to what class structure is all about. We work towards getting the child ready to be in more structured class but once again, the focus is fun and learning.

We have a closet full manipulative and mats. Each class consists of two activities focusing on a skill or more than 1 skill as the children get older, an obstacle course made up of mats focusing on gross motor and building strength, and a small game to end the class.

Any questions about the Program or Registration questions: Please email Melissa mcroteau@northkingstown.org or Chelsey at cdumas@northkingstown.org