



Lehigh Valley TOPSoccer Club

1350 Buck Trail Road, Allentown, PA 18104 Tel:610-391-1812

TOPSoccer (for children with Special Needs)

The **Lehigh Valley TOPSoccer Club** is proud to announce that we will offer a **TOP Soccer** program in the upcoming Spring 2009 season.

Lehigh Valley TOPSoccer Club was founded by the parent of a child with special needs who felt that the existing soccer programs did not even come close to meeting the needs of aspiring players with special needs.

Lehigh Valley TOPSoccer Club is the only club in the Lehigh Valley dedicated 100% to offering the game of soccer to children with special needs. In Spring 2009, TOPSoccer will be offered to children with Autism Spectrum disorder, Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy.

TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities. The program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to boys and girls who have a mental or physical disability. The goal is to enable the thousands of young athletes with disabilities to become valued and successful members of the Lehigh Valley soccer fraternity, Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer (EPYSA) & US Youth Soccer families.

The emphasis of this program is on development, training and meaningful participation rather than on competition.

Key Elements for Successful **TOPSoccer**

- **Fun! Fun! Fun!**
- **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**
- Community support – monetary and non-monetary
- Volunteers willing to work with children
- **Oodles of patience**
- 'Buddy' system: some players paired with a buddy
- Placement of players primarily by ability, not age
- **Emphasize ability, not disability**
- Involve players and provide meaningful experience
- Dependability of coaches



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The **Lehigh Valley TOPSoccer Club** is proud and pleased to offer **TOP Soccer** in Fall 2008 for children with **Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome or Cerebral Palsy**.

This is the ONLY dedicated soccer program in the Lehigh Valley for children with special needs!

What is it?

TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with special needs. It provides meaningful learning, development and physical participation opportunities to young athletes through the game of soccer. The emphasis is on development, training and meaningful participation rather than on competition.

Who can Enroll?

TOPSoccer is open to **all children in the Lehigh Valley (Lehigh, Northampton, and Carbon County)** with **Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome or Cerebral Palsy**.

When is it?

TOPSoccer will run in the spring from April to mid-June and in the fall from Sep to mid-November following regular soccer season schedules.

When and where is TOPSoccer played?

We play on **Saturday afternoon** at the **Lehigh County Soccer fields** in South Whitehall Township.

How can I help?

The **TOPSoccer** program exists for athletes to achieve, develop and compete according to their abilities. We need **volunteers** to make this a reality for these children.

How do I learn more about TOPSoccer?

For more information on **TOPSoccer**, please go to <http://lvtopsoccer.org>

To register

Please print the registration form from the website <http://lvtopsoccer.org> and follow instructions to register.

Spring '09 registration (mail-in only) is from Jan 1 to Mar 15

Cost \$20

Any questions or concerns can be emailed to administrator@lvtopsoccer.org