



Physiotherapists:
The Body Specialists

Physio Tips

Child Activity
Habits

Physiotherapy Association of BC

Neuromuscular training helps reduce the risk of kids getting hurt.

It's time to play for hundreds of thousands of Canadian children. All that extra activity also means they may be at increased risk for injury.

Whether it is team sports like baseball and soccer, or more risky activities like skateboarding or mountain biking, the Canadian Physiotherapy Association is calling on parents to be more proactive in preventing injuries in children.

Parents need to act as the coach. They need to ensure their children have the equipment, nutrition, and hydration to play safely. Children should wear helmets for cycling and skateboarding, wear footwear that matches the sport and playing surface, eat a carbohydrate based athlete's diet with minimal pop and junk food, and drink 8 ounces of water every 20 minutes in hot conditions.

There are other things parents can encourage their children to do that will help minimize the risk of injuries including:

- Training and conditioning (cardiovascular, muscle strength, balance)
- Dynamic stretching before an activity, static stretching after activity
- Practicing techniques and skills (landing a jump, cutting and pivoting)
- Rest and recovery after activity (rehydrating, re-nourishing, stretch and cool down)

Neuromuscular training helps reduce the risk of kids getting hurt. Injuries are not just a temporary problem; having one injury increases the chances of developing other injuries.

Parent can help by ensuring appropriate warm-up programs are followed.

There is evidence that neuromuscular warm-up activities including balance, technical and strengthening components will significantly reduce the risk of lower extremity injuries in sports such as soccer and basketball.

A pre-participation examination by a physiotherapist working in sports medicine is encouraged. Such an assessment can facilitate the identification of individual risk factors for participation in some sports, particularly if the child/adolescent has prior history of injury.

Parents may also want to consider getting their children involved in sport therapy groups where health care professionals such as physiotherapists are involved in injury prevention training programs. Inquire with local sport groups, or at health clubs with certified fitness trainers.

Get your child in shape so that they avoid injuries and foster healthy activity habits that will follow them into adulthood.

Physiotherapists are experts in movement and mobility, body mechanics, muscles and joints. They will help develop an exercise program specially-tailored to your needs, putting together the right combination of activities to improve physical fitness and avoid injury.

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