

THE ROADMAP TO HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT



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LITTLE BLACKHAWKS LEARN TO PLAY PROGRAM

NOVICE, 4-9 YEARS OF AGE

The Little Blackhawks Learn to Play program is designed to teach children not only the skills needed to play hockey but also important character traits such as responsibility, respect, and teamwork. It is available for first-time participants between the ages of 4-9 and provides them with equipment, age-appropriate instruction, and certified coaching in a fun and safe environment.



FUTURE CHARGERS LEARN TO SKATE [LEVELS 1 & 2]

NOVICE / BEGINNER / INTERMEDIATE, 3-7 YEARS OF AGE

The Learn to Skate Program comprises progressive classes designed for new skaters with minimal skating experience, targeting ages 3-7. Instruction at these introductory levels emphasizes correct skating technique, enabling students to acquire specific progressive skills essential for successful advancement to Pre-Hockey and Mite Hockey programs. **Minimum age requirement: 3 years.**

Level 1: Falling and recovery, marching, two-foot glides, forward dips, backward wiggles, two-foot snowplow stops, forward swizzles

Level 2: One-foot glides (right/left), backward swizzles, scooter pushes (right/left), two-foot jumps, one-foot snowplow stops



FUTURE CHARGERS PRE-HOCKEY [LEVELS 3 & 4]

PREREQ: COMPLETION OF LEARN-TO-SKATE PROGRAM, ADVANCED, 4-8 YEARS OF AGE

The Pre-Hockey Program builds on the Learn to Skate curriculum, reinforcing foundational skating skills from Levels 1 and 2 while introducing puck handling, passing, and shooting. This program is intended for children aged 4-8.

Level 3: Forward stroking/strides, forward pumps (left/right), forward crossovers (right/left), backward snowplow stop, two-foot ski slalom (introduction to edgework)

Level 4: Backward skating, backward pumps (left/right), backward crossovers (right/left), forward to backward two-foot turn (clockwise/counterclockwise), introduction to hockey stops



FUTURE CHARGERS FULL ICE IN-HOUSE MITES [LEVEL 5]

PREREQ: COMPLETION OF PRE-HOCKEY PROGRAM, ADVANCED, 5-8 YEARS OF AGE

The Full Ice In-House Mites Program further develops skating and puck skills acquired in earlier levels, incorporating structured games to introduce players to concepts such as spacing and timing. This level demonstrates how previously learned skills apply during game situations, following the USA Hockey ADM (American Development Model) to promote continuous movement and frequent puck interaction. The program is designed for ages 5-8.

This program includes **two ice sessions each week** (1 Saturday and 1 Sunday). Saturday will be a skills-based practice similar to what the Jr. Chargers full-ice Mite travel teams have during their weekly skills practice. Sunday is set up as half-ice or cross-ice games in line with the USA Hockey ADM (American Development Model), allowing players to have constant movement and frequent puck touches.



NORTHWEST CHARGERS TIER II TRAVEL HOCKEY CLUB

PROUD AFFILIATE OF THE FUTURE CHARGERS

The Northwest Chargers Hockey Association is the premier Tier II Travel Youth Hockey Club of the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago, providing a strong environment for the pursuit of excellence, teamwork, family, and enjoyment. Our Mite through Midget teams participate in the Central States Developmental Hockey League (CSDHL), Northern Illinois Hockey League (NIHL), and Chicago United Hockey League (CUHL).



MOUNT PROSPECT ICE ARENA (MPIA)
1501 Feehanville Drive, Mount Prospect, IL 60056

HAVE QUESTIONS? ASK CHRIS LICHTERMAN
(224) 478-9199 / c.lichterman@nwchargers.org

