

## OPS Football - The Yard

The **Winter I session of The Yard will begin on Saturday, November 8** at the Ash Center. The Yard is a six-week program that focuses on teaching basic principles of football coupled with loose scrimmages to put those principles into action.

### THE BASICS

**Age groups:** 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (age on November 1, 2025)

**Cost:** \$80

**Location:** Indoors at OPS Ash Center, 1701 Freeman St. in Fort Wayne (Enter Door 1)

**Session Days:** November 8, 15, 22 (no session on Thanksgiving weekend); December 6, 13, 20

**Session Times:**

<b>9 a.m.</b> - 4-5 year olds
<b>10 a.m.</b> - 6-7 year olds
<b>11 a.m.</b> - 8-9 year olds

### DETAILS

Each week will begin with a 35-40 minute instruction session teaching a fundamental aspect of the game, established by OPS Football staff. This will be a particular playing trait such as throwing or catching or skills such as change of direction, acceleration, etc.

The instruction session is followed by a 15-20 minute session of putting that fundamental skill into practice through scrimmage and/or competition.

### GOALS

The basis of "The Yard" is to give opportunities to kids who either do not have much experience in the game to learn the basics, or for kids who would like to try other positions in a relaxed setting. So much attention is being put on competition and not enough on basic skill work and development.

It is better to **ENCOURAGE** at a young age with small-group instruction and training than **DISCOURAGE** aspiring footballers by thrusting them into a competitive league atmosphere that prioritizes wins and championships over learning the game.

The Yard is where you go to **LEARN** the game!

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