



Three-year-old Andre Corley gets a little extra help from instructor Lise Roman.



Samantha Arnold, three, shows winning form.



Greg Corman finds skating has its ups and downs.



Instructor Lise Roman leads the pack.

## Tots take to the ice to learn skating basics

If there's one thing that can be said for youngsters between the ages of two and five-years-old, it's that they are virtually fearless.

And that's the premise on which the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department's Parent-Tot skating program works.

The winter skating program winds down this week for the parents and tots, but will resume again in the fall.

Lise Roman, who instructs the group of about 20 tots, paired with their parents, says the program gives the youngsters a chance to try skating with the "support" they require.

"The children have no fear when they're little," Roman says. "It's like any sport. It's easier for them to learn, because they don't realize

they're learning. They're having fun."

The youngsters who take part in the program range in ages from two-and-a-half to four. Once they reach the age of five, they can advance to regular figure skating or hockey programs, so Roman says this gives them excellent preparation for the step up.

In most cases, the parents will don their skates as well, and accompany the youngsters onto the ice, to provide a leg to lean on when necessary.

A major benefit of the program, aside from the obvious, is that the parents can take their child on the ice without having to worry about the headaches of busy public skating sessions.

The important thing is they learn how to get around on the ice - with the fewest bruises possible.



Three-year-old Jacquie Bajic, and Jenny Culbert, four, take a break from the action.

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