

Important stats on exercise and kids

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Some important facts:

- According to Statistics Canada, at least 25 percent of Canadians between the ages of two and 17 are overweight.
- The Active Healthy Kids Canada 2009 Report Card found that only 13 percent of the country's children and youth were getting 90 minutes of physical activity a day.
- The Canadian Medical Association Journal reports that the average Canadian kids spend three to five hours a day in front of a TV or computer screen.
- That same report states that in the past 15 years, the incidence of obesity has grown more than 50 per cent in children age 6 to 11.

Gymnastics is a fun, fantastic sports for kids to get involved in at a recreational level and many programs start as young as one year old. The federal government has shown their support in getting kids active by touting their children's fitness tax credit. It's their way of encouraging parents to help their kids get active by being able to claim a maximum of \$500 a year for eligible fitness expenses. Gymnastics is one of those eligible for the tax credit, and can be started a much younger age than most sports and can continue for many years at a recreational level for those that don't necessarily excel in the team sports that get more and more competitive as their children get older.



Cassie Pettersen, 10, shows off her skills learned at Cartwheels Gym Centre.

Parents interested in enrolling in gymnastics should investigate the different centres in the area to find the one best suited for their families needs.

—Article submitted by Jenn Unsworth and Patricia Murphy, Cartwheels Gym Centre, 318 Guelph St, Georgetown, 905-702-9904, info@cartwheelsgymcentre.com, www.cartwheelsgymcentre.com

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