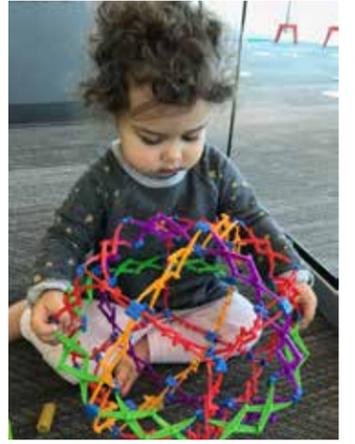


kid's corner

THE BRATS CLUB



"Welcome to The Brats Club ... we're so glad you're here!" Singing the Club's theme song, the teacher leads eager children and their smiling parents into the bright and inviting play space. What started as a search by two Southside Village moms for things to do with their own little ones has grown — in nine short months — into a developmental play program for over 100 children and their parents.



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Last summer, Rachel Benderson and Julie Guirguis were looking for organized play for their own two babies, who were just beginning to walk. They contacted Barbara Leverone, Certified ChildSpace Educator, and the trio began to develop a program of developmentally based active play, songs and games for infants and toddlers, newborn to two and a half years old and their parents or caregivers. Dave Weiner, partner and owner of Definition Fit, graciously offered a room at his gym for the initial classes. The first class of 10 moms and children was held at Definition Fit last September and, since then, the program has steadily expanded to 10 weekly classes at the picturesque Finish Tower at Nathan Benderson Park as well as Saturday classes at Definition Fit.

Rachel and Julie continuously gather feedback from parents in the classes, fine-tuning the curriculum, which is grounded in a focus on gross and fine motor skills, early language learning and social-emotional growth. Their own children thoroughly enjoy the classes and, as parents, they love that their children are fostering significant skills important to their individual development. The best part is that it's all done through the power of play or as they like to say, "Play with a Purpose!" The parents benefit from a deeper understanding of their child's development, learn new skills to support their child's growth and enjoy social time meeting new friends.

For more information about The Brats Club SRQ, please visit their Facebook page (The Brats Club SRQ), email play@bratsclub-srq.com or call Julie at (440) 503-3713.

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