



## Take me out to the ball camp

New North Toronto group ready to train youngsters  
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JUSTIN SKINNER

A group of skilled local baseball coaches are hoping their plan to start a baseball camp for kids and young teens is a big hit among North Toronto families.

The North Toronto Baseball Camp is gearing up for its inaugural summer run, with experienced peewee and mosquito league coaches taking participants through a series of drills designed to both improve young players' fundamentals and hone specific skills. The camp will be run by Gabe Diamond, Alex Day and Jeremy Weisz, all of whom have helmed teams in North Toronto, Lawrence Park and Forest Hill for the past few years.

Diamond said the week-long camp will give youngsters from six to 14 years of age a chance to work on all aspects of the game, from hitting to pitching and baserunning to fielding.

"Because baseball, like golf, is really technique-based, it's important for kids to learn the fundamentals of throwing, fielding, hitting and baserunning," he said. "We're going to start out with fundamentals and by the end of the week we'll have narrowed down our focus to position-specific practices."

Each camp session will offer a week's worth of day-long sessions, with training drills in the morning and skills competitions and games in the afternoons to allow campers a chance to apply what they've learned in live situations.

Diamond said the camp is being designed to level the playing field and ensure that children of all skill levels fit in and have a role on the field. Players will be grouped according to age, size and playing ability.

"The first few days, we'll really teach the basics, but if we get players out who have some skill, we'll teach them at their level," he said. "The main goal is to make sure that all the kids come away from the camp with something, that they improve as players."

The coaches will also provide specific instruction for the different positions around the diamond, with campers allowed to stick with their preferred position or try out new ones.

While the camp's founders are optimistic the camp will catch on, they are realistic about enrolment as a new organization. They have already had some players from their peewee

teams sign up and are hoping to pad the camp's numbers in time for the start of the first of a series of sessions this summer.

"We'd be very, very thrilled with about 20 kids a week, but we know that a lot of parents base camp decisions on the camp's reputation, and being a brand new camp, that can be tough for us," Diamond said. "We really hope that we get some kids from the first session who return for the second session."

The North Toronto Baseball Camp's first session begins on July 2, with other weekly sessions running at Memorial Park near Bathurst Street and Eglinton Avenue through mid-August. Enrolment is limited and costs \$250 plus GST. To register or for details, visit [www.ntbaseballcamp.com](http://www.ntbaseballcamp.com) or call 416-619-1224.