

## **Why we aren't running the Mini Whomper Program this summer**

We know many of you are disappointed that the Mini Whomper program was cancelled this summer. We hope this is the only summer that we will have to make this decision. We can assure you that it was not an easy one to make, but ultimately it came down to safety and the guidance handed down to us from various health departments. Kelsey and Maggie, our Mini Whomper head coaches have been developing a fun and enriching program, so it is very disappointing that they will not be able carry out their plans, but more importantly see your swimmer in the pool this summer.

The purpose of the Mini Whomper Developmental program is to bridge the gap between swim lessons and The Whomping Turtle Swim Team. The focus is almost entirely on teaching fundamentals and developing basic motor learning skills, improving strength/endurance, and coordination in the water. The program also addresses developing listening skills and increasing our youngest swimmers ability to follow directions both in and out of the water.

One of the successes of our program is having the number of coaches that we typically do in the summer so that coaches are not only giving verbal and visual directions out of the water, but also giving verbal, visual and physical directions in the water. This promotes a better swimmer and a safer environment for our Mini Whompers.

Unfortunately, we just do not see how we can have coaches in the water providing the verbal, visual and mostly importantly the physical directions and manipulation of arms and feet while practicing social distancing at the same time. We do not want to compromise the success of our program by eliminating a key important focus of the practice when we remove coaches from the water or having them try and speak to swimmers 6 feet apart while on deck with masks on. We feel this just defeats the purpose of the program.

We hope that you understand and that we can get back to some kind of normal next summer.