

Gymfinity Gymnastics
6300 Nesbitt Road
Fitchburg, WI 53719
608-848-3547
gymoffice@gymfinity.com
www.gymfinity.com



Background Information

Gymfinity is a gymnastics, cheer, and tumble facility in Fitchburg that was founded in September of 1999. It is owned by J. and Stephanie Orkowski. Gymfinity is a child focused company that tries to teach many skills that help guide children as they grow older. There are currently 34 employees.

Gymfinity Gymnastics

- Been providing classes for children with physical and cognitive disabilities since 1999
- These popular classes have as many as twenty children in the class
- Classes help the children with hand-eye coordination, self awareness, and social skills, as well as providing a place for their parents to meet and network with the parents of other children with autism.

Story

Ty, the instructor of the Saturday morning class, has been a gymnast since age 3. He studied autism when a student at Edgewood. Ty has developed programs specific to each child. The individualized programs entail lots of up close, one on one, work. He makes it a point to know each child in the class and to know what their triggers are so he can help to prevent meltdowns. Older siblings, who may have disabilities, are appointed as helper for the day to give them a sense of importance and accomplishment.

Of the 34 employees at Gymfinity, half have been trained to work with children with autism. There are many resources on autism at Gymfinity including books, parents, and other businesses. Every year each school that has a special needs program is allowed 3 free field trips for the children in that class. The company also recently hired someone with autism, who works in the gym and helps with cleaning.

Reported by Erik Danielson, Edgewood College, March 2007, for Professor Denis Collins (dcollins@edgewood.edu) and the 2007 Good Samaritan Award, co-sponsored by the Samaritan Counseling Center and Edgewood College.