



Here's a dozen  
REALLY helpful hints  
to help in coaching  
your child's tee ball  
team!

# 12 Things You REALLY Need To Know About Coaching Tee Ball!



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1

**Organize. Plan. Execute.**

You wouldn't take off on a cross-country trip without a road map would you? Well, neither should you embark on a TeeBall season without a plan. Take some time before the season starts to decide **WHAT** you want to accomplish, **HOW** you want to do it, and **WHY** you want to do it. Make sure you're in this coaching tee ball thing for the "right reasons." What are the "right reasons?" Write down five reasons you want to coach a tee ball team and read it to your child. You'll know.

*(HINT: "To Have Fun" MUST be in the top five.)*

**HAVE A PLAN!**

2

**Teeballers (ages 4-6) Typically Have Shorter Attention Spans.**

With organization comes many benefits. Organized practices allow you to make the most out of any practice times that you have together. Plan your practice times so that you minimize any standing around. If they are active and having fun they are more apt to be focused during practice. **KEEP THEM BUSY!**

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**3****Make Tee Ball A Fun Experience.**

This should be true for you and the kids. You'll be surprised how focused they will be for a one hour practice if games are used to teach skills or if they know something special is coming at the end of practice. Ice cream treats are a great way to reward good effort by youngsters. They get a real feeling of accomplishment knowing they have pleased the coach, and done a good job. Sometimes it's beneficial to do something special even after a frustrating practice.

**BE CREATIVE!****4****Keep Expectations Realistic.**

You're probably going to have between 12-14 kids on your team. The best you can hope for is that half of them will understand the game fairly well by the end of the season, and if that's the case, thank your lucky stars. Don't expect to take your team and "whip them into a finely-tuned offensive and defensive machine." Anticipate teaching key skills, developing players and keeping them from getting hurt.

**SEE IT FOR WHAT IT IS!**

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**Keep Your Practices Short And Skill-Focused.**

Don't try to cram too much information into a short practice. Remember the ancient Chinese proverb about how to eat an elephant - "one bite at a time." Smaller bits of information are easier for these young minds to process and retain.

**SIMPLIFY!**

6

**Don't Assume They Know What You Mean.**

Not all children know where the bases are or where right field is. Most likely, they probably won't remember from practice to practice, so be prepared to show them again and again.

**ASSUME NOTHING.**

7

**Young Children Are Very Literal.**

If you are about to execute a baserunning drill from home to second base, make sure they understand what you expect. If you tell them to run from home base to second, don't be surprised if they take off across the pitcher's mound in a straight line towards second base.

**DEMONSTRATE!**

## 8

## Express Your Goals To The Parents.

The single most important thing that you can do is clearly communicate your goals and expectations to the parents. Most will be concerned only if they perceive your coaching style as “the-win-at-all-costs-type.” If they know you will help their child get somewhat better, that you will treat him/her fairly, and that you will provide a positive influence, they will be absolutely thrilled.

### **COMMUNICATE!**

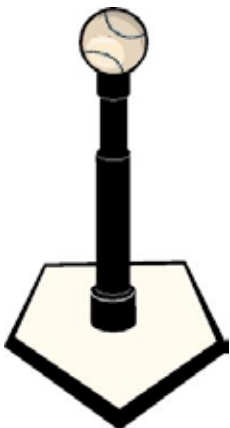
## 9

## Get Help.

No, we're not saying as in “professional help”. Involve your parents. Get as many parents as you possibly can involved in the practice and game process. When a person accepts a position of Team Helper or Assistant Coach, two things happen:

- 1.) You'll have more help.  
(Trust us, you'll need it!)
- 2.) They are less likely to be critical.

### **PROMOTE PARTICIPATION.**



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10

**Laugh A Lot.**

Laugh with them, not at them. If the kids see you enjoying yourself, chances are pretty good, they will too. An uptight, screaming coach does little to foster a positive attitude. It does nothing to improve their skills and develop them as a player. What it does do is give you, and those around you a headache.

**ENJOY THE OPPORTUNITY YOU ARE GIVEN!**

11

**Promote Good Sportsmanship.**

Do not permit temper tantrums on your part, on the kids' part, on your assistant coaches' part, or on your parents' part.

**TEACH BY EXAMPLE.**

12

**Be The Person They Remember (Positively) Twenty Years From Now.**

Chances are, each of us remembers a coach or teacher from our past, that we recall fondly. It is also highly likely that we can recall at least one individual that causes us to inwardly cringe when we remember our experience with them. Strive to be a pleasant memory, and a positive influence.

**BUILD MEMORIES!**



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