
PARENT POINTERS

Things for parents to keep in mind during a child's soccer experience:

- Provide transportation to and from all training sessions and matches, and ensure your player is prompt in arriving and in departing.
- Attend training and matches if your schedule allows. Lend the players your support in a positive manner. Emphasize their accomplishments and efforts.
- Make sure your child never talks with, or leaves with, strangers.
- Have your child bring the required equipment to and from all matches and training sessions.
- Practice with your child at home.
- Avoid material rewards. Stress the joy of soccer.
- Listen. Make your child feel important and encourage contribution to a team effort.
- Understand that your child will make mistakes.
- Be positive and do not criticize. If your child is not performing correctly or improving, suggest an alternate technique with the coach's guidance, such as, "That's pretty good, now how about trying it this way?"
- Be graceful-and not boastful-when your child's team wins.
- Be positive and provide encouragement when your child's team loses.
- Make fun and technique-development top priorities when practicing.
- Support your child's coach and, before being asked, offer to help in any way possible.
- Do not disagree with the coach or referees on the field or in front of your child. Questions, input and positive suggestions should be discussed privately and calmly.
- Enjoy the excitement of soccer and the opportunity to be with your child.

