

# 12 Things You Really Need to Know About Coaching T-Ball

1. Organize. Plan. Execute.
  - 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. HAVE A PLAN!
2. Young Players (ages 4-6) Typically Have Shorter Attention Spans.
  - 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!
3. Make T-Ball/Baseball A Fun Experience.
  - This should be true for you and the kids. They get a real feeling of accomplishment knowing they have pleased the coach, and done a good job.
4. Keep Expectations Realistic.
  - You're going to have between 7-11 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. Anticipate teaching key skills, developing players and keeping them from getting hurt.
5. Keep Your Practices Short and Skill-Focused.
  - Don't try to cram too much information into a short practice. Smaller bits of information are easier for these young minds to process and retain.
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.
7. Young Children Are Very Literal.
  - 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.
9. Get Help.
  - Get as many parents as you possibly can involved in the practice and game process. Promote participation.
10. Laugh A Lot.
  - Laugh with them, not at them. If the kids see you enjoying yourself, chances are pretty good, they will too. Enjoy the opportunity you are given.
11. Promote Good Sportsmanship.
  - Teach by example. Do not permit temper tantrums on your part, on the kids' part, or on your parents' part.
12. Be The Person They Remember (Positively) Twenty Years From Now.
  - Strive to be a pleasant memory and a positive influence. Build memories!

