



Go Team!

Raising a Team Player Even though your child may not be on the first string, it's important to let him know he is making a tremendous contribution to his team. You will encourage his team spirit by showing that you support him whether he is warming the bench or the starting forward.

The best way to promote healthy competitiveness, yet discourage poor sportsmanship, is by being a team player yourself. Unfortunately, parents can fall into the trap of taking on their child's wins and losses as their own. Don't let that happen to you. Be a positive role model for your kid in everything you do!

As a parent, you need to praise, support and inspire your child to be the best that she can be. Encourage her to work together with others to build an even stronger team. Be sure to applaud positive behavior. Remember, you are her number one cheerleader.

Make constructive comments such as: "You did a good job at ..." or "You really did well in"

Don't criticize him if he makes an error on the field. That only perpetuates negative feelings, and causes a lack of confidence. This, in turn, takes away from the team spirit you want to encourage your child to have. Let him know that he's not going to win every time. Show him how to accept loss as gracefully as he embraces victory.

Remind your child that being part of a team is very important. If she is only working hard because she thinks she can become a star, then she is doing it for the wrong reasons. Someday, somewhere, sometime, she'll be disappointed with her achievements. But if your child has developed a cooperative attitude, she will understand the value of working hard every day.

Keep in mind the true purpose of a team is to provide your kid with an opportunity to have fun, while also building character and learning a number of lessons that will benefit him in every aspect throughout his life.

Being part of a team will teach your child to follow instructions, accept responsibility, receive advice, take criticism and be accountable to his teammates. He also will learn how to cheer on the rest of the group. Through cooperative teamwork, your kid will build relationships that may last a lifetime.

Now, go team!



Tips:

Qualities of a Successful Team Player

- Works together
- Supportive of others
- Listens
- Is reliable
- Actively participates
- Committed
- Flexible
- Shares

Help your child be a good team player by being:

- Positive
- Enthusiastic
- Supportive
- Accepting
- Accountable
- Cooperative
- Respectful
- Confident

Helpful Links:

- Raising a Team Player
 - <http://www.enotalone.com/article/4986.html>
- Parenting Tips and Advice
 - <http://www.parenting.org/>
- How to be a Team Player
 - http://www.ehow.com/how_2046734_be-team-player.html
- Team Building For Kids
 - <http://ezinearticles.com/?Team-Building-For-Kids&id=2268690>