

Teaching Kids the Game of Basketball

“It’s amazing how much a youngster’s hearing improves when he or she hears praise.

from Coach Jim Harrick, head coach University of Georgia

This is a brief outline as to how one should approach the teaching aspect in youth basketball.

- I. General Thoughts
 - o Lack of fundamentals
 - o Overall knowledge of how to play the game
 - o Lack of team play
 - o Dealing with constructive criticism: ‘Coaching’
- II. Your Role as a Teacher First - Coach Second
 - o Be aware of your influence over a youngster
 - o Take great pride in your responsibility to the kids
 - o You are an authority - A Model!
 - o You are a person who can make a great impact on the character development.
- III. Character Development
 - o Respect for the coach: demand their attention and their effort
 - o Desire to Excel through hard work
 - o Develop sportsmanship
 - o Have great enthusiasm - a must!
 - o Competitiveness - by the rules
 - o Be a team player - respect your teammates; be unselfish
 - o Maintain a positive attitude
- IV. Coaching Traits
 - o Praise Praise Praise. Coach with encouragement.
 - o Exhibit great patience - too many beginner’s don’t
 - o Show compassion for an honest effort
 - o Self-control - Keep your emotions in check
 - o Impartiality - give each player a fair chance
 - o Integrity and honesty - a constant.
 - o Teach with enthusiasm.
 - o ‘Know what you teach and teach what you know!’
- V. Developing Your Philosophy
 - o Your job is to effectively teach the execution of various fundamentals.
 - Don’t give them too much - do a few things well!
 - Be clear and simple in your explanations
 - Devise a balanced offensive and defensive system
 - Stress playing the game without the ball
 - Demand quick execution of the fundamentals
 - Remain POSITIVE
- VI. Key to success
 - o Have a sound knowledge of your subject
 - o Have discipline and accountability
 - o Be organized - Maximize your practice time
 - o Have Public Relation skills: Parents, refs, administrators
 - o Demand attention and concentration
 - o don’t assume they know what you are talking about
 - o Demonstrate drills
 - o Use easy to understand terminology

- o REPETITION is the key to success
- VII. Coaching Methods
 - o The Learning Process: Whole-part-Whole
 - o Reinforcement of good will repeat the action
 - o Make a clear presentation of a drill or play
 - o Explain necessity and importance of your teaching
 - o Use teaching aids - video film sessions, chalk talks, etc.
 - o Set realistic goals and strive for excellence
 - o 'Inch by inch, life's a cinch, yard by yard, life is hard.'