



SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS

Note: This is a sample letter to parents of 6- and 7-year-olds. Your message to parents of older players would likely be a little different. Adjust the letter according to your needs, regardless of the age of your players.

246 ABSOLUTE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO **COACHING YOUTH BASEBALL**

Dear Parent(s):

I'm excited about the new season approaching, and I know you and your child are, too. I want to take a moment to introduce myself and let you know my approach to coaching.

I've been coaching for three years in the park district, beginning when my oldest son entered the league and am certified in first aid/CPR. Over the years, I've developed this coaching philosophy:

- The child is more important than winning. We will do our best to win, but helping each child develop his or her skills, learn more about baseball, and enjoy the experience—while providing for everyone's safety and well-being—take precedence over winning.
- Everyone gets equal playing time. Over the season, your child will play a variety of positions.
- We practice using games and drills that simulate what the players will experience in real games. We do this to practice skills and learn the rules of the game.
- I use positive reinforcement and plenty of encouragement as kids learn the skills. Baseball is a tough sport to master. My focus is to help players learn the fundamental skills and understand the basic rules and strategies of the sport.

What do I expect from the players? I expect them to show up to practice on time, to respect and listen to me, to respect their teammates, to try their hardest, and to have fun. I structure practices so the learning is fun.

What do I expect from parents? I expect them to

- Get their child to practices and games on time or to let me know if they're not coming
- Encourage and support their child and the team during games
- Refrain from booing or making negative remarks to the umpires or the other team
- Get involved in a variety of ways with the team (I'll fill you in at the first practice on these opportunities)
- Practice, if at all possible, with their child at home (I'll give you ideas for what to practice)

Please understand that baseball has some inherent risks. I enforce strict rules about the throwing of balls and the swinging of bats at practice, as well as the wearing of

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helmets. Even so, injuries can occur—generally minor, such as scrapes or bruises. I will do everything possible to run an injury-free practice, and I do know how to respond in case of an injury, but I do want you to know the chance of injury always exists in baseball, as in any other sport.

Our first practice is Monday, June 12, 5:30 p.m., at Blair Park. At that practice I will give you a full practice and game schedule. I will also give you a medical information sheet to fill out; this will let me know whether your child has any special medical conditions and who to contact in case of an emergency.

I'm eager for the season to start! See you on June 12.

In the meantime, feel free to contact me at 342-3537 before the first practice, or at any time during the season. Thanks for your attention to this letter, and I look forward to a great season coaching your child!

Sincerely,

[Name, phone number, address]

