



# White Plains Little League

## Role As A Little League Parent

### **1. Keep Winning in Perspective**

Are you able to keep winning in perspective? You might answer with a confident yes, but will you be able to do so when it's your child who is winning or losing, when your child is treated a bit roughly by someone on the other team, or when the umpire makes a judgment against you child? Parents are sometimes unprepared for the powerful emotions they experience when watching their sons and daughters compete. One reason that parent's emotions run too high is that they want their children to do well; it reflects on them. They also may believe that their children's failures are their own. Parents need to realize that dreams of glory they have for their youngsters are not completely unselfish, but they are completely human. Parents who are unaware of their own pride, who are even capable of being amused by their imperfections, can keep themselves well under control.

### **2. Be a Model of Good Sportsmanship**

Flying off the handle at games or straining relations with the coach or other parents creates a difficult situation for your child. Just as you don't want your daughter or son to embarrass you, don't embarrass your Little Leaguer. It's no secret that kids imitate their parents. In addition, they absorb the attitudes they think lie behind their parent's actions. As you go through the Little League season, be a positive role model. Remember, Little League is supposed to be a fun experience for your child and one which he or she will learn some sports, teamwork and leadership skills. Winning will take care of itself.

- *If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.*
- *If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.*
- *If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.*
- *If children live with praise, they learn to like themselves.*
- *If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.*
- *If children live with recognition, they have to have a goal.*
- *If children live with honesty, they learn what trust is.*

### **3. Parents Checklist For Success**

- *Can you give your child some time?*
- *Can you let your child make his or her own decisions?*
- *Can you accept your child's shortcomings?*
- *Can you accept your child's triumphs and disappointments?*

### **4. Parents Responsibilities**

- Let your child choose to play Little League. Encourage participation, but don't pressure.
- Understand what your child wants from participating in Little League and provide a supportive atmosphere for achieving these goals.



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- Set limits on your child's participation in baseball or softball. You need to determine when he or she is physically and emotionally ready to play and to ensure the conditions for playing are safe.
- Make certain your child's coach is aware of any issues with your child so they can ensure an appropriate Little League experience.
- Keep winning in perspective by remembering the athletes first and winning second. Instill this perspective in your child.
- Help your child set realistic goals about his or her own performance so success is achievable.
- Help your child understand the experiences associated with competitive sports so he or she can learn the valuable life lessons that sports can teach.
- Discipline your child when he or she misbehaves, breaks the rules, is uncooperative, uncontrollable or disrespectful.
- Make sure your child attends all practices and games at the time specified. Turn your child over to the coach at practices and games and avoid meddling or becoming a nuisance.
- Work with your child to improve his or her skills. Practicing with your child not only helps to improve their skills but also provides an activity to interface with your child.
- Contact the coach when your child cannot attend a practice or game.
- Discuss with the coach any issues that may arise. If issues cannot be resolved with the coach, contact your WPLL Division VP for additional assistance.

### **5. Little League Parent/Volunteer Pledge**

I will teach all children to play fair and do their best.

I will positively support all managers, coaches and players.

I will respect the decisions of the umpires.

I will praise a good effort despite the outcome of the game.