

Sportsmanship For Parents

The development of sportsmanship is an important part of youth development. To become contributing, competent, caring, capable adults, youth must develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and aspirations of sportsmanship.

Parents and supporters help their children develop sportsmanship by:

1. setting a good example, and
2. demonstrating sportsmanship before, during, and after competitive programs.

Here are some examples of ways you can help your child learn to be a fair and generous competitor, a good loser, and a graceful winner.

1. Teach your child sportsmanship. Require him/her to demonstrate sportsmanship before, during, and following competitive activities. Teach and encourage him/her to...
 - demonstrate and maintain high standards of personal behavior and conduct which become her/him as an individual and as a representative of your family, your team, your community, and the program.
 - learn and follow the rules.
 - be objective.
 - be honest, fair and straightforward in everything she/he says and does.
 - show integrity.
 - accept that nature of competition and that it results in both winners and losers.
 - be well-mannered and show respect.
 - give respect to other participants, spectators, program officials, judges, and supporters,
 - give others the benefit of the doubt.
 - treat people, animals, and things kindly.
 - be considerate and thoughtful in speech and action regardless of performance.
 - be friendly and cheerful.
 - keep emotions under control.
 - accept judges' decisions, suggestions and results with a positive attitude.
 - congratulate winners and losers
 - not complain, or make excuses when he/she doesn't win or perform well.
 - take the things that happen at the program, and the results, with grace.
 - not complain or make accusations about others unless he/she has proof and is willing to personally face the person(s) she/he is accusing.
 - recognize, appreciate, and learn from the ways people handle accomplishments and setbacks.
 - recognize, learn from, and try to improve.
 - be happy but not gloat, brag, act conceited, or downplay his/her accomplishments.
 - thank coaches, advisors, program organizers, sponsors, judges, and others.
2. Applaud for your children, your friends' children, your favorite teams or groups, and others for whom you wish to express appreciation and admiration.
3. Don't boo, heckle, or make insulting comments about, or to, anyone - including competitors from rival teams or groups, program officials, judges and organizers.
4. Listen quietly when participants are introduced, officials are talking or making announcements, and when other comments are being addressed to the audience.
5. Remain until the end of the event or class you are observing, or until program organizers indicate it is appropriate for spectators to depart. Do't get up and leave the minute your child leaves the show ring or stage.
6. Encourage your child to politely ask questions if she/he has them, express concerns he/she may have, and make helpful suggestions to program officials and organizers.
7. Congratulate all participants after the program.
8. Allow your child to participate, succeed, fail and learn based upon their own performance. This is about youth development, not about you.



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