**Coaching Tips**

* Prepare for your practice in advance, start on time, and stick to your timeline (refer to sample practice plans). 
* Set expectations for the practice and the season – we encourage managers at all levels to conduct a “parents meeting” at the beginning of the season and to set ground rules for the players. 
* Ask for help (the more volunteers the better), but don’t be afraid to tell coaches and volunteers how you want drills organized and executed – this is still your practice. 
* Keep the kids moving, for example, run stations and limit the amount of time at each. If necessary, break the kids up into smaller groups to maintain their attention and increase their repetitions. 
* Reinforce routines, for example, start each practice the same way (running and stretching, throwing mechanics, etc), and have a designated place to play catch (e.g., right or left field foul lines). 
* Don’t sweat the small stuff. Kids will be kids. There’s not a great deal you can do about that, but set guidelines for conduct. 
* Keep it fun by incorporating contests (refer to sample practice plans). 
* Focus on the basics and skills development. Baseball is about muscle memory caused by repetition of good mechanics. 
* Try to incorporate “situations” at each practice to teach the kids the game.