

## SLL Softball Skill Development and Mastery

Skill	T-Ball	Farm A	AA	AAA	Majors	Juniors
<b>Catching &amp; Throwing</b>						
Properly Grip the Ball	Some	Some	Most	Most	All	All
Throw overhand with proper mechanics	Some	Some	Some	Most	Most	All
Have a catch with a partner	Some	Some	Most	Most	All	All
Receive the ball with two hands	None	Few	Some	Most	Most	All
Move toward the ball using feet. (center the ball to the body)	None	None	None	Some	Most	All
Accurately throw to partner from 30' with consistency	None	None	Some	Most	All	All
Accurately throw to partner from 60' with consistency	None	None	None	Few	Some	Most
<b>Batting</b>						
Hold the bat and swing level	Some	Some	Most	Most	All	All
Sacrifice Bunt	None	None	Few	Some	Most	All
Fake Bunt	None	None	Few	Most	All	All
Sneak Bunt/Quick Bunt	None	None	None	Few	Some	Most
Understand and execute a suicide squeeze	None	None	None	None	Few	Some
Slap Hitting	None	None	None	Few	Some	Some
Track ball to catcher's mitt when taking a pitch	None	None	Few	Some	Most	All
Understand and react to dropped 3rd strike	None	None	None	None	Most	All
Seek coach's signs before every pitch	None	None	None	Some	Most	All
<b>Base Running</b>						
Run the bases in the proper direction	Most	All	All	All	All	All
Run through 1st base	Some	Some	Most	All	All	All
Take a proper lead	None	None	None	Some	Most	All
Round 1st base with ball hit to the outfield	None	None	Few	Some	Most	All
Sliding Feet First	None	Few	Few	Some	Most	All
Pop-Up Slide	None	None	None	Few	Some	Most
Hook Slide	None	None	None	None	Few	Some
Properly dive back to a base (right hand to back side of bag)	None	None	None	None	Some	Most
Delayed Steal	None	None	None	Few	Some	Some
Understand and execute Safety Squeeze	None	None	None	None	Few	Some
Understand and execute Suicide Squeeze	None	None	None	None	None	Some
<b>Basic Fielding</b>						
Be able to name all the positions on the field	Some	Most	All	All	All	All
Grounders - Get behind the ball	Few	Some	Some	Most	All	All
Grounders – Stay down on the ball (glove dirty)	None	Few	Some	Most	Most	All

Understand Force Play vs. Tag	None	Few	Some	Most	All	All
Catch Fly Balls	Few	Some	Some	Most	All	All
Execute cut-offs / relays	None	None	Few	Some	Most	All
Execute a rundown	None	None	None	Few	Some	Most
<b>Pitchers</b>						
Accuracy - Throw 50% strikes	None	None	Few	Few	Some	Most
Cover home on a passed ball	None	None	Few	Some	All	All
Throw a change-up	None	None	None	Few	Some	All
Throw breaking balls	None	None	None	None	None	Few
Execute proper back-up positioning on balls hit to the outfield	None	None	None	Some	Some	Most
<b>Catchers</b>						
Understand and react to dropped 3rd strike	None	None	None	None	Most	All
Ignore the distraction of the batter's swing	None	None	None	Few	Some	Most
Demonstrate proper positioning for tag play at home	None	None	None	Some	Most	All
Demonstrate ability to drop and block balls in the dirt	None	None	None	Few	Some	Most
Palm up when ball is in the dirt (don't trap the ball)	None	None	None	None	Some	Most
Demonstrate proper side to side movement for inside/outside balls	None	None	None	Few	Few	Some
Reach 2nd base on one hop	None	None	None	Few	Most	All
Reach 2nd base in air (no hop)	None	None	None	None	Some	Most
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Base</b>						
Demonstrate proper foot placement on the bag	None	None	Few	Some	Most	All
Demonstrate a proper stretch	None	None	None	Few	Some	Most
Recognize and react to bunt situations	None	None	Few	Some	Most	All
Run ball to pitchers circle after receiving a throw and runners on base.	None	None	None	Some	Most	All
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Base</b>						
The Mortillaro Yo-Yo (backing up the pitcher with runners on base)	None	None	Some	Most	All	All
Cover 1 <sup>st</sup> on a bunt	None	None	Few	Most	All	All
Cover 2 <sup>nd</sup> when ball is hit to left side	None	Few	Some	Most	All	All
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Base</b>						
Demonstrate proper positioning for a tag play at 3rd	None	None	Few	Some	Most	All
Recognize and react to bunt situations	None	None	None	Few	Most	All
<b>Short Stop</b>						
Cover 2 <sup>nd</sup> on a steal	None	None	None	Some	Most	All
Cover 2 <sup>nd</sup> when ball is hit to the right side	None	Few	Few	Most	All	All
Execute proper bunt coverage for the situation	None	None	None	Some	Most	All
<b>Outfielders</b>						
Execute back-ups on throws to bases	None	Few	Some	Most	All	All

Demonstrate 1 <sup>st</sup> step back /Drop-Step	None	None	None	Few	Some	Most
Track Fly Ball to landing spot	None	None	Few	Some	Most	Most
Back-up other outfielders on balls hit to outfield	None	None	Few	Some	Most	All

Key –

None – At the end of the spring season **No** players should be expected to demonstrate mastery of the skill

Few – At the end of the season - Less than half the players should be expected to master

Some –... About half of the players

Most – ...More than half the players

All – ...Virtually all players