



2 minute drill

for parents



monthly tips from Positive Coaching Alliance

Stages of Talent Development

The Romantic Stage is the beginning of the sports experience. The child just loves to play the game, and can't wait to get outside and kick the ball or play catch. Often, this is when someone notices talent in the child, which often leads to the Technical Stage.

The transition from sport as fun to developing proper technique is where many kids drop out. As the focus moves to technical proficiency, all too often the sport becomes more like a job and less like a wonderful experience. The trend is that we are moving children into the Technical Stage at an earlier and earlier age. In some cases, we no longer even allow for a Romantic Stage, and kids miss out entirely on one of the times when sport can provide pure joy.

Make sure your child isn't rushed into the Technical Stage. A too-early focus on technique can drain the enjoyment that fuels the drive for excellence.

adapted from *Positive Sports Parenting* by Jim Thompson



To purchase this and other books by PCA Executive Director Jim Thompson, please visit:
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