



Methodology: Characteristics of U8's

- Tend to play well in pairs.
- **Are now able to take others' perspective.** They now have a sense of how other people are feeling
- **Still unable to think abstractly.** Be patient
- **Still many prefer playing to watching.** Keep everyone active during practice and remember - no lines



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- **Limited attention span** (on average 15 seconds for listening, up to 20 minutes when engaged in a task).
- **Begin to understand “if I do this, then that happens.”** Have an understanding of time and sequence.
- **Many have incorporated a third or fourth speed into play;** not all players, but many players now have incorporated a speed or two between stopped and as fast as possible.
- **Some will keep score,** the competitive motors churn faster in some than others. Surely some parents are fueling the motors with their own



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- We do not need to stress winning and losing at this age. Results should not be important at this age
- Be very aware of your verbal and nonverbal reactions, as they look for your reaction frequently
- Seek out adult approval. Be supportive when they ask about their performance or try to show you their skills.
- Build their confidence and encourage them to try new things. They need reassurance



Methodology: Characteristics of U8's

- **Wide range of abilities** between children at this age. Children all develop at varying paces.
- **Beginning to develop motor memories;** by attempting to perform technical skills, they are training their bodies to remember certain movements.
- **A social order is beginning to develop.** Becoming aware of peer perception. Be sensitive to this.
- **Still have active imaginations** - Less active imaginations than U6 players.