

Spencer Soccer Club

Youth Development Program

Weekend Session Plan Guidance

Under 6

Focus: Dribbling, Plus 1 Skills Pyramid

Time: Each weekend session lasts for 60 minutes

Planning:

- 1) Print out and read through Weekend Session Plan
- 2) Become familiar with the Plus 1 Skills triangle
- 3) Arrive at the field 15 minutes prior to scheduled start time
- 4) Set up pug nets and cones to facilitate a smooth session plan

Each Session Plan consists of the following:

- 1) Guidance (the page you are reading)
- 2) Plus 1 or Plus 2 Skills Pyramid Diagram
- 3) Warm-Up Activity*
- 4) Activity 1
- 5) Controlled Juggling
- 6) Activity 2
- 7) Small Sided Game

*Session Plan #1 includes (4) additional sheets



Session Structure:

Warm-Up Activity (12 Minutes): Incorporate skills from the Plus 1 Skills triangle into the Warm-Up Activity. Skills Pyramid skills should be introduced one by one and no more than (3) per session. Work in succession of the pyramid and introduce all skills by weekend session #5. Skills introduced in the previous session should be reviewed in every subsequent warm-up activity. Session Plan #1 includes (4) additional sheets that provide additional warm up activity guidance and how to perform the step over and drag back escape turns. All skills should not be introduced in week one. This guidance is included to assist coaches throughout all sessions. Plus 2 Pyramid skills are not introduced until week 8 and only pertain to the longer 10 week spring session.

Activity 1 (12 Minutes): Activity 1 is a fun activity for the children. Incorporate the activity as described. Find ways that change the activity slightly so that you are not repeating the “exact” drill over and over. Adding skill moves (pull back) when collecting the ball or seeing which group can complete the activity first are ways to make the activities more interesting as they get later into the allowed timeframe.

Snack/Water Break (4 Minutes)

Controlled Juggling (4 Minutes): **Incorporate into every practice.** A few minutes only, players drop the ball to their thigh and foot and try to kick or bounce the ball back to their own hands (repeat). Concentrate more on foot juggling.

Activity 2 (12 Minutes): Same guidance given for Activity 1 above

Small Sided game: There are no substitutions. All players should play for a few minutes (3 to 5) and all players should rest. Games should be played across the field with pug nets with a maximum of 4v4. Additional fields should be set up to accommodate players. Coaches should pair players of like abilities in game play (e.g. your top three vs. their top three, etc.). Coaches should be stationed on the field to introduce a new ball into play when a ball exits the field or enters a goal; this is accomplished by throwing it up in the air or rolling it to a player who is hasn't had many touches on the ball. There should be no restarts. Only use kickoffs after a break or at the start of the game.



PLUS | SKILLS CHALLENGE PYRAMID™

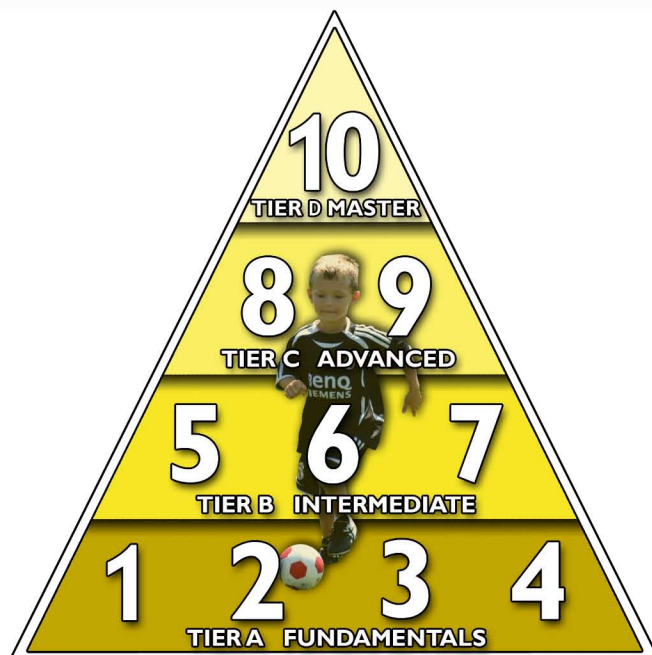
TIER A

1. Laces Dribble – With the toes pointing down towards the ground push the ball forward with the laces, knee bent over ball on contact. After each touch step through with the opposite foot.

2. Foundations – using the inside of both feet push the ball from one foot to the other. On the spot initially then moving forward and back when comfortable

3. Toe Taps Forward – Using the toe end of the sole, tap the top of the ball - alternating left and right feet. On the spot initially, with a slow rhythm and then hopping. Once competent in a stationary position, move forwards.

4. Toe Taps Backward – Using the toe end of the sole, tap the top of the ball - alternating left and right feet. On the spot initially, with a slow rhythm and then hopping. Once competent in a stationary position, move backwards.



TIER B

5. Step-On Turn – Dribble forward, place the sole of one foot on the ball to stop momentum, step beyond the ball with both feet leaving the ball, turn to face the ball and dribble back. Repeat several times using both feet.

6. Drag Back Turn – Dribble forward, stop forward momentum of the ball by reaching forward with one foot and placing the sole of the foot on top of the ball, drag (roll) the ball back down the side of the body away from the defender and accelerate into a dribble.

7. Back Heel – Dribble forward, step beyond the ball, make contact with the heel of one foot sending the ball backwards, turn and accelerate into a dribble.

TIER C

8. Inside Cut – Dribble forward, stop forward momentum of the ball by reaching forward with inside of one foot and 'cutting' the ball back down the inside of the body (away from the defender) in one movement and accelerate into a dribble.

9. Ball Rolls – Using the inside, outside and sole of one foot, roll the ball side to side, backwards and forwards and keeping contact with the ball at all times. Both feet.

TIER D

10. Outside Cut – Dribble forward, stop forward momentum of the ball by reaching forward

LEARN MORE:

To learn how Skill of the Week™ and Skills Challenge Pyramid™ can be incorporated into a comprehensive approach to Player and Coach Development, please contact David Newbery, dave@soccerplus.org, tel: 860-501-1165.

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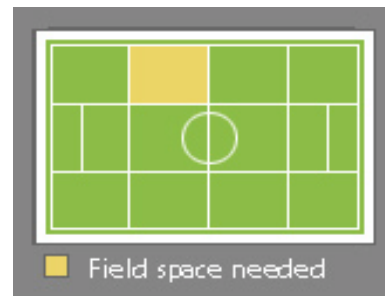
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Materials Needed



Area 30 x 30 yds

- Cones
- Ball per player

Traffic Lights (Dribbling Warm Up)

Description:

Use the theme of the popular movie 'CARS'. Every player has a soccer ball. When the coach calls "Green light" the players must dribble their ball around the area. On the call of "Red light" the player must stop and place their foot on the ball. Other commands of "Mater" (tow truck) for dribbling slowly, and "Lightning McQueen" - dribble as fast as you can, "Car Wash" - ball rolls forward & back (both feet), "Wipers" - foundations back and forth, "Sheriff" - the coach gives a 'ticket' (5 toe taps) to runaway cars, and 'Rev the Engines' - foot on top of the ball and vibrate faster and faster and make revving noise.

Coaching Points

- Keep ball close and under control
- Keep head up
- Keep the ball moving

Progressions:

This is a really good activity to coach and improve technique - dribbling, turning and ball mastery. Each time you play Traffic Lights add a different movement, turn and mastery skill. For example:

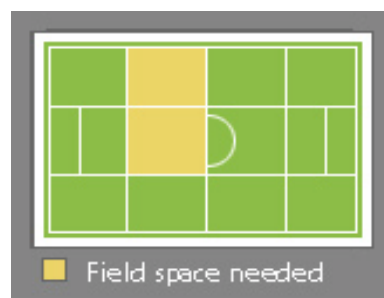
Movement sequence: 1) **Dribble with laces** - slow down and push the ball lightly with the laces (left, right and both) 2) **Boxes** - push the ball from side-to-side, right to the left foot and back again, 3) **Toe taps** - hopping from one foot to the other touching the top of the ball with the opposite foot each time. Ball stays - does not move. 4) **Sole drag back** - hopping between feet, move backwards dragging the ball back alternating between the sole of the shoes, 5) **Sole push** - push the ball forward with the sole of the shoes. 6) **Laterals** - move to the left by dragging the right foot over the top of the ball (rolling the foot over the top of the ball). Move right with the left foot.

Turns: It is anticipated players at the end of this stage of development will be able to perform the following turns 1) **Inside of the foot**, 2) **Outside of the foot**, 3) **Drag back**, 4) **Step over**, and 5) **Back heel**. Add others!

Also if you have a number of coaches or parents you could add toll bridges. Have coaches and parents stand with their legs apart. Every time a player sees an open toll bridge they must play the ball through the legs and collect it from the other side.



Materials Needed



Area 20 x 20 yds

- Balls
- Cones

Poke Tackle (Defending)

Description:

A poke tackle is used when an opponent loses possession of the ball - the defender makes a lunge with either foot to knock the ball away from the attacker. Players have a ball each and dribble around the area. On the coach's command the players react to the instruction. When the coach calls "STAGGER" the defender gets into a staggered position. "SWITCH" - the defender spins to face the other direction. "CHANGE" - change balls with another player. "POKE" poke the ball away from another player.

Coaching Points

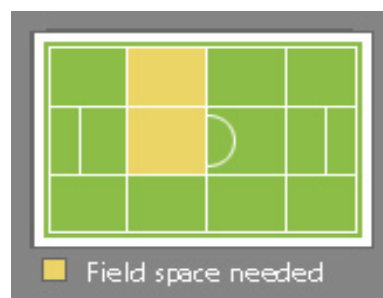
- Get body side on into staggered position
- Keep low
- Poke the ball away with closest foot

Progressions:

Play until the last player is in the area with a ball.



Materials Needed



Area 20 x 10 yds

- Ball per player
- Cones
- Training Vests
- Goals

Block Tackle (Defending)

Description:

Play 1v1 - One goal at each end of the area. Firstly teach the block tackle technique: Players stand face to face with hands on their partners shoulder. One ball between each pair. One player counts to 3 and then the players perform a block tackle - both players tackling at the same time. When the ball is won, the players attempt to score. 4 players to an area, next 2 on when goal is scored.

Coaching Points

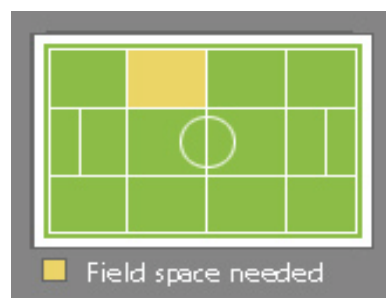
- Non-kicking foot by the side of the ball
- Block tackle with inside of foot
- Lean into challenge with body weight forward
- Do not kick at the ball

Progressions:

The correct technique (lower the body by bending knees, place non-tackling foot beside the ball, contact the ball with inside of foot, cushion on impact, force the ball away from opponent. Progress to taking a step back and perform again – players need to get the ‘feel’ – no kicking through the ball!



Materials Needed



Open area

- One ball per player

Controlled Juggling (Relaxation)

Description:

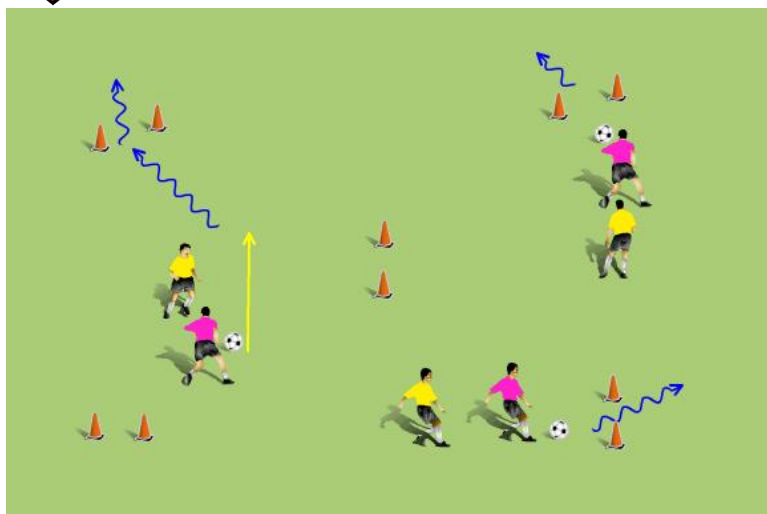
Players start with the soccer ball in their hands. They drop the ball on their thigh (juggle it once), and catch it. As they get better at it, they can try juggling the ball from one thigh to the other thigh and then catch it.

Coaching Points

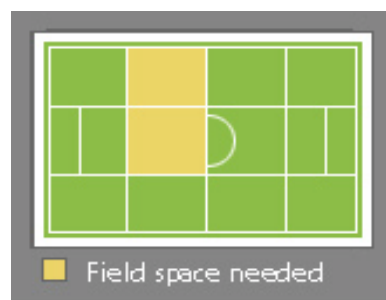
- Fun
- Thigh, foot - eye coordination
- Soft touches
- Preparation Touches

Progressions:

The coach can suggest any combination that is reasonable for this age group. This is used to help develop your players confidence on the ball and develop their foot/thigh - eye coordination.



Materials Needed



Area 30 x 30 yds

- Balls
- Cones
- Training vests

1 v 1 Challenge (Defending, Attacking)

Description:

Players work in pairs. One player is the attacker with the ball and one player is the defender. The attacker's objective is to try and dribble through as many of the gates (two cones 2 yds apart) as possible. The defender must try to stop the attacker from scoring. After 45 seconds change roles.

Coaching Points

- Defense - try to slow the attacking player
- Defense - don't be overly concerned with winning the ball
- Defense - use body strength to force play to one direction
- Attack - awareness of the open space
- Attack - keep the ball moving but have control
- Attack - encourage take on or escape moves

Progressions:

Change the emphasis of defending to win possession - the first defender to win the ball gets a point - first defender to 3 points wins.



Match 3 v 3 (Game)

Description:

A small sided game 3v3 is a good way to finish a practice session. Use the opportunity to emphasize the theme of the session - award points for a particular move in addition to scoring a goal. Let the players play with little or no coaching - 15-20 minutes at the end of the session.

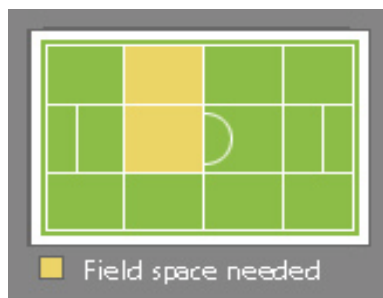
Coaching Points

- Little or no coaching
- Encourage players to try skills practiced during the session

Progressions:

The final activity of most practice sessions should focus on the theme of the session. Conditions can be added by the coach to emphasize the theme. For example, the coach can award a point (goal) if a player performs a turn learned during the session. Other conditions/progressions include: 1 or 2 touches, 1 touch finish, All players must touch the ball before scoring, Add a plus player (an extra player for the team in possession of the ball), 3 goals - one scored with the right foot, one with the left foot and one with the head (or any surface).

Materials Needed



Area 30 x 15 yds

- Balls
- Cones
- Training Vests
- Small Goals