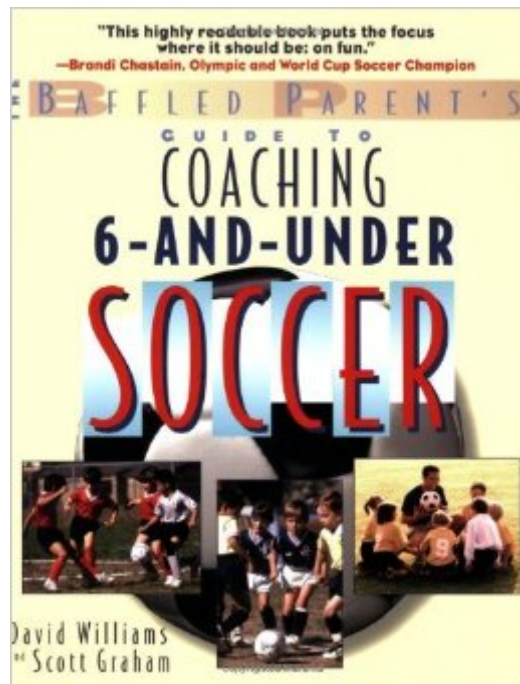


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# The Baffled Parent's Guide To Coaching 6-and-Under Soccer (Baffled Parent's Guides)



## Synopsis

"Scott and David have done a fantastic job getting into the psyche of these very young players. What I really love is their emphasis on FUN, and that kids learn by DOING. This book will make a great extra assistant as you prepare for your season."â•Bobby Clark, Head Soccer Coach, University of Notre Dame; author of the best-selling Coaching Youth Soccer: The Baffled Parent's Guide Coach. You're the new coach of your child's soccer team, and you're not sure how to teach your players the fundamentals of soccer while also ensuring they have fun. Don't panicâ•Coaching 6-and-Under Soccer is here to help. Coaching 6-and-Under Soccer offers straightforward advice, tips, and techniques, including reward-based games and drills; your first six practices in an easy-to-photocopy format; and how to teach soccer basics to 4-, 5-, and 6-year-olds in ways that are fun for you and your players. This complete tool kit for a new coach includes: The twelve easy-to-run drills that work best with young soccer players How to keep your young players happy and active while they learn How to make parents your best assistants and supporters How to keep the focus where it belongsâ•not on winning or losing, but on having fun How to have a terrific time coaching young players "Coaching 6-and-Under Soccer shows you how to teach your young players the right wayâ•through lively games that encourage kids to use their creativity and self-expression when playing."â•Brandi Chastain, Olympic and World Cup Soccer Champion; author of It's Not About the Bra: Play Hard, Play Fair, and Put the Fun Back into Competitive Sports "I have no doubt that young players will come to love the game of soccer if their coaches follow the simple, straightforward advice in this book."â•Anson Dorrance, Head Women's Soccer Coach, University of North Carolina; author of The Vision of a Champion: Advice and Inspiration from the World's Most Successful Women's Soccer Coach "I highly recommend this terrific book to coaches who want to instill good sportsmanship and the love of the game in their young players while building a solid foundation in basic soccer skills and teamwork."â•Jeremy Gunn, Head Men's Soccer Coach, Fort Lewis College

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Soccer dad with no soccer experience. My daughter's coach is good but I wanted to get involved with some practicing at home. I was going about it totally wrong and probably was starting to turn her off to the sport. After devouring this book, my daughter and I have been having a great time practicing together. Within days, her skills have dramatically improved. She has gone from just kicking the ball as hard as she could to dribbling and passing and trapping and shooting. She is now one of the better on the team. But really, she enjoys it so much more because I followed the philosophy of this book. She comes to me regularly and wants to play red light green light. A side benefit, if the coach is late or busy, I am completely comfortable running some drills to get the team going and practicing and engaged. Very happy with this book.

This book delivers on the title promise - it really is a quick-read how-to guide on coaching 6-and-under soccer. I've coached youth soccer several times, and I bought this book with the idea that it would help add some polish to what I was already doing. I can't say that the book provided any new revelations, but it did provide a structure, philosophy, and progression to the way I was already coaching. That is, I found the book very valuable. I will use the information provided as I coach our upcoming season. If I was offering any criticism, it would be that the set-up for some of the drills was a little lame. Good drills, just a lame set-up. Also, the guide over-emphasizes the philosophy of non-competitiveness (e.g., strongly recommends no goalies). Otherwise, I thought the author was spot on -- I'd like to see our league provide this book for all new coaches, especially coaches for the younger players.

Let me start by saying that I know the game of soccer and am familiar with the rules of the game...BUT when coaching kids under 6 you can throw pretty much all you know out the window! This book is a great reference to coaching the little ones. It gives great insight into the do's and don'ts of coaching young children and offers lots of games as an alternative to "drills" that your

Kindergartener or 1st grader will love. They learn the basics of ball handling and they don't even realize it! It walks you through step by step the first 6 practices and your first game day. It also gives you minute by minute sample practices and example letters for parents regarding the season and what your ultimate goal is. This is my first season coaching my 5 year old and this book has been essential to me. Shelly

A brand new soccer coach facing six very wild and unruly 6 year-old boys hoping I could teach them the basics of the game of soccer. No easy task. A key concept here is that we need to give very young kids the chance to try new things out, develop their confidence and have fun so they keep coming back - and that this is far more important than winning. This book was a lifesaver my first year. It was rained on, stepped on and dragged in and out of the equipment bag many times during the season. But under all that muck and abuse are some very creative ideas to get the kids engaged while also teaching them basic skills like dribbling, passing and defending. Great book.

I am a first time coach and knew next to nothing about soccer. This book has been a great help with my under 7 team, most of whom haven't played before. It's focus on fun games based on ball control makes a lot of sense. The kids are really enjoying their training and the other parents are very happy with what we're doing. I also think there's a lot in this book for the experienced coach who hasn't worked with kids this young.

This book is, by far, the best book I have read on coaching youth soccer. After cobbling together different drills from different books for a couple years, I found this book and for the past few years have used it almost to the letter! Over the years of coaching my 3 children's teams, I have bought a dozen copies to give to my assistant coaches or friends who are going to start coaching their teams. The book is just perfect in approach--focused on teaching the kids through fun games--and I have read it multiple times. If you are a first-time youth-coach, you will quickly discover the hard truth: the biggest challenge is getting the kids to practice instead of goofing off. And this book has the perfect solution: no talking, no waiting in lines, just fun games that simultaneously involve everybody and teach soccer by doing the game. The kids have more fun and learn more (and you won't pull your hair out) if you follow this book.

My husband and I decided to coach our 5 year old son's soccer team this fall, because he had a pretty negative experience with his last volunteer coach and we wanted to make sure this soccer

season was more fun. Neither of us had ever coached before, but this book really saved our bacon. It helped confirm what we already believed, that soccer for this age group should be about having fun, learning skills and building friendships, not about competition. The drills in this book are all presented in the form of fun games, and the kids loved them! As a result, we had very few behavior problems with our kids, tons of enthusiasm, and almost 100% attendance at every practice and game. Coincidentally, we also won every game we played, even though we didn't focus on the competitive aspects of the sport. I think we won because our kids were so happy and excited about playing. Their parents all expressed appreciation and gratitude to us. In short, this book is golden... buy it!

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