TOPSoccer
Coaching Without Tears

Gordon Henderson
Director of Coaching
Ohio South Youth Soccer Association
TOPSoccer......Coaching Without Tears

It is common to hear that 'helping kids' is near the top of the list for many coaches.

However, when you tell someone that the child has 'special needs' – sometimes, a sense of doubt and fear can come into play. "I can't do that – I have no experience".

This presentation and resources are for you if;

• You are thinking about getting involved in TOPSoccer

• You are involved in TOPSoccer .......and are looking to get more people involved from a team, club, league or your community
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Life is just a spectrum........Where Do You Fall?
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Life is just a Spectrum........We are all on it.
What makes you unique?

- Introvert
- Neat Freak
- On time
- Shy
- Extrovert
- Late
- Need company
- Happy being by yourself
- Slob
- Outgoing
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'kids are just kids' – irrespective of perceived limitations.
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........ Or behaviors
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Who will you be coaching?

.........Wide Spectrum of Disabilities........and ABILITIES.

**The Common Four**

- Autism
- Cerebral Palsy
- Down Syndrome
- Physical Disabilities (wheelchair, crutches)

**Also.....**

- Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)
- Behavior Disorders
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Autism

Common Traits

- Wide range on the spectrum
- Sounds and noise can have a debilitating effect
- Can be withdrawn
- In own world
- Tough to communicate with
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Autism

1. Difficulty in mixing with other children
2. Inappropriate laughing or giggling
3. Little or no eye contact
4. Apparent insensitivity to pain
5. Prefers to be alone; aloof manner
6. Spins objects
7. Inappropriate attachment to objects
8. Noticeable physical overactivity or extreme underactivity
9. Unresponsive to normal teaching methods
10. Insistence on sameness; resists changes in routine
11. No real fear of dangers
12. Sustained odd play
13. Echolalia (repeating words or phrases in place of normal language)
14. May not want cuddling or act cuddly
15. Not responsive to verbal cues; acts as deaf
16. Difficulty in expressing needs; uses gestures or pointing instead of words
17. Tantrums - displays extreme distress for no apparent reason
18. Uneven gross/fine motor skills (may not want to kick ball but stack blocks)
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Autism

All the way to......

• Very bright
• Emotionally detached

This is commonly called Asperger Syndrome......
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Down Syndrome

Common Traits

• Decreased or poor muscle tone
• Small head, ears, and mouth
• Upward slanting eyes, often with a skin fold that comes out from the upper eyelid and covers the inner corner of the eye
• Wide, short hands with short fingers
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Down Syndrome

Wide range on the spectrum........
• Delayed language and speech development
• Mild to moderate cognitive delays
• Tend to be very affectionate
• Short attention span
• Impulsive behavior
• Great personalities!
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Cerebral Palsy

What is Cerebral Palsy?

• Wide Range on the spectrum......
• It is a PHYSICAL condition....not a COGNITIVE condition
• For some, imagine being trapped in a body making it hard to communicate
Cerebral palsy is a physical disability that affects movement and posture.

It is a permanent life-long condition, but generally does not worsen over time. It is due to damage to the developing brain either during pregnancy or shortly after birth.
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Cerebral Palsy

Cerebral palsy affects people in different ways and can affect body movement, muscle control, muscle coordination, muscle tone, reflex, posture and balance. (Cerebral Palsy Alliance Website)

Wide Range on the spectrum....
It is a PHYSICAL condition....
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Physical Disabilities

Wide range on the spectrum....(are you sensing a theme yet?)

Blind
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Physical Disabilities

Deaf
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Physical Disabilities

Low Muscle Tone
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Physical Disabilities

Amputee
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Physical Disabilities

Paralysis

“I’m not disabled or differently-abled or specially-abled or exceptionally-abled. I’m an accountant in a wheelchair.”
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Behavior Disorders - ADHD

Wide range on the spectrum..... (you knew this was coming – right?)

Controlling Impulses
High levels of energy
Paying attention
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What about ADD?
In conclusion...........

- TOPSoccer kids will always be on a spectrum
- You don’t have to have a strong background in soccer or be a special needs expert to participate........
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Conclusion

See the person......not the disability
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- Kids are just kids......
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We are all a little different – that is what makes us unique

US Youth Soccer – The game for ALL kids!
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LOVE WHAT YOUR DOING?

If you have a passion for the game and love teaching it to children, then TOPSoccer holds rewards beyond your wildest dreams.