



GAME FORMAT PROJECT - SIDELINE

Why 2v2 and 3v3? Because it's all about the ball. Research shows that simplifying soccer to 2v2 or 3v3 is the best way for 4–6-year-olds to learn what the ball is, what it does, and where it should go. At this age, the ball is a magnet. Every player wants to be near it. That's normal. That's how they learn. "Bumblebee soccer" isn't a problem. It's exactly what's supposed to happen.

The Game Facilitator's job is simple: Keep the game safe, fun, and focused on the ball/the direction it should go. Rules should only be enforced if players can't self-correct or repeatedly break the same one.

You can help! Use your voice to name actions and encourage the right direction.

Celebrate dribbling, passing, or shooting toward the other team's goal.

Reinforce pressing, challenging, or blocking that prevent the other team from scoring.

Remember: It's not about perfect play. It's about encouraging the right choices, even when they don't work out yet.

If your child is not playing, tell them, "I love watching you play," and make sure they're hydrated and ready.



Defending our own goal:
Pressing, Challenging, Blocking

Attacking the other team's goal:
Shooting, Passing (Receiving), Dribbling



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