



# COACHING

9 to 12 year olds

**DON'T FORGET TO ASK PERMISSION TO COACH!**

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Before you volunteer to coach in your local Little League, don't forget to ask your son or daughter for permission!

A question I am often asked at a coaching clinic is; "What is the best way to coach your son or daughter?"

Before I answer the question I think it is important to know the top 3 reasons parents step up to coach their kids in Little League Baseball and Softball:

1. Some parents have experience playing baseball or softball, enjoy being with their kids and feel fairly confident they could coach a Little League team so they volunteer.
2. Another group of parents know if the League President appoints them as the manager they automatically get to have their son or daughter on the team. These parents volunteer to be sure their son or daughter doesn't end up on a team with a coach they think may not provide a positive experience.
3. Sometimes the league is really short of volunteer coaches and if someone doesn't step up there may not be a place for their son or daughter to play, so they volunteer.

These are solid reasons for stepping up to volunteer, but I think the first thing a parent should do is to sit down with their son or daughter and ask them for permission to be their coach.

Before each sport season, I always asked my son Scott, and my daughters Torey, Josie and Allie if it was OK for me to volunteer to be their coach.

If they said; "No Dad, thanks for asking, but why don't you take this year off and just enjoy the season as a fan" - I would not have volunteered.

As it turned out they always said yes, and were excited when I got selected to be their coach. I firmly believe, asking their permission, helped create a very positive coach-player relationship from the start.



Big Al with son Scott