



The Valley Program
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October 28, 2008

Dear Valley and PIE Parents,

The school year is in full swing and many of our families have chosen to participate in the PTO-sponsored Saturday recreational program that offers our kids soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter and tee ball in the spring. I would like to offer the following pointers about the importance of properly shadowing the kids in order to promote their maximum participation, and that of their teammates!

1. Every child must have an identifiable adult or older sibling that is helping them participate
2. Shadowing is supportive – meaning the shadow must be focused on the child at all times in order to help the child engage in all conversational as well as physical interactions
3. True shadowing means that the shadow remains behind the child, providing necessary prompts, promoting eye contact and reinforcement. Remember – a physical action requires some level of physical or gestural prompt. Only verbal prompts should be used when the child is asked to engage in a verbal action
4. All directions should be coming from one main person – usually the coach. The shadow should be whispering in the child's ear IF and ONLY IF a verbal prompt is necessary
5. Anyone not engaged in shadowing should be off to the side, with conversation kept to a minimum in order to not distract the players
6. Remember that any of our kids can run from the game at any time. If there are parents watching from the sidelines that are not the designated shadows, it would be important that they position themselves so as to prevent any eloping child from running away from the field and possibly into a roadway (as in the case of the soccer field in Haworth)
7. Remember the main adult- the coach should be assessing motivation and providing reinforcement.....as well as the shadow!
8. Any children who have augmentative devices should have them with them...even if they need to be left on the sidelines while playing
9. Parents should also consider bringing visuals to support your child's participation, especially if it helps to keep your child focused.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning the above.

Sincerely,
Pamela Giacchi, M.Ed, BCBA
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