

# Successful Parenting in Sports

- We love our kids, but over identification can be dangerous
  - Remember, youth sport is for the kids!
- Fun and skill development should be top priority at all levels of play.
- Watch with quiet attentiveness:
  - Silently and attentively watch the kids play
  - Cheer good plays
  - Then quietly watch again
- Children cannot tell the difference between positive, instructional and negative yelling (they don't like either!).
- Kids report the top two negative parenting behaviors are yelling at the refs and sideline coaching.
- Parents are unique in their ability to provide encouragement and support, and an escape from soccer.
- Reinforce effort and skills, not winning.
- Focus on what your child is doing right!
- Let the coach do his or her job.

