



Parent Cheer Guide

How to support your player from the bleachers - and help them love the game.

Youth baseball is a game. The kids on that field are 6 to 12 years old, learning a hard sport. How the adults in the stands behave shapes whether they keep playing. Here is how to be the parent every coach and kid loves to have at the field.

Do This

- Cheer effort, not just outcomes. "Great hustle!" beats "Why'd you swing at that?"
- Clap for both teams' good plays. You're modeling sportsmanship.
- Let the coach coach. One voice from the dugout - kids can't process two.
- Feed them and hydrate them. A snack and water do more than advice.
- Ask "Did you have fun?" before "Did you win?" on the ride home.

Avoid This

- ✗ Coaching from the stands - it confuses your kid and undermines the coach.
- ✗ Arguing with umpires. They're often teenagers volunteering. Let it go.
- ✗ Postgame breakdowns of every mistake. The 24-hour rule applies to parents too.
- ✗ Comparing your kid to teammates. Every player develops on their own clock.
- ✗ Living through the scoreboard. At this age, development is the only score that matters.

The Ride Home

The car ride after a game is the most important coaching moment a parent has - and the easiest to get wrong. Six magic words: "I love watching you play ball." That's it. No analysis, no fixes. Just let them know you enjoy being there. Kids who hear that keep playing. Kids who get a postgame critique start dreading the car.

One Job

Your job in the stands: be their biggest, calmest, most positive fan. The coaching is handled. The fun is up to you.