

PRACTICE PLAN #1 LEVEL – ON DECK/HOME PLATE

Required equipment: TVB balls, various bats, various balls (baseball, wiffle balls, tennis, softballs, foam balls, batting tee, set of bases (minimum four))

WARM-UP

RUNNING DRILLS:

Description: All athletes are side by side on a line. Athletes do the exercises with 45 feet of running distance in front of them. “There and back.”

VARIATIONS AND PROGRESSION:

- A. Sitting, use only arms
- B. High knees
- C. Military walk

WARM-UP:

Description: Warming up with various exercises giving opportunities to stretch the body and prepare itself for baseball practice.

THROWING AND RECEIVING

ACTIVITY “HANDCUFFS” (7)

[Click here](#) for video demonstration

Description: Athletes pair up with each other or with a coach. On signal, athletes take a proper grip on the ball.

Equipment: One ball for each pair

VARIATIONS AND PROGRESSION:

- A. From a seated position, pick up the ball off the ground and throw it to a partner (or coach/parent helper)
- B. Make sure they’re using the appropriate grip on the ball

ACTIVITY THE WHEEL (8)

[Click here](#) for video demonstration

Description: In pairs, the athletes play catch using proper throwing mechanics.

Equipment: One ball for each pair

VARIATIONS AND PROGRESSION:

- A. On both knees
- B. Athletes are executing on command:

KEY POINTS

- *Throwing arm goes down*
- *Reach back*
- *Lift arm to shoulder height*
- *Appropriate arm action*

HITTING

ACTIVITY “BETWEEN THE TWO” (19)

[Click here](#) for video demonstration

Description: Each athlete has a bat in their hands. They watch and copy each batting position that the coach assumes.

Every time the coach asks the athletes how to position themselves, they answer “Between the Two”. In all cases, you want “Between the Two” extremes as a better method for your batters to start from.

Equipment: One “bat” per athlete

VARIATIONS AND PROGRESSION:

- A. Close feet (compact stance) VS Wide feet (wide stance)
- B. Straight legs VS Bent legs
- C. Complete swings without balls

KEY POINTS

- Feet must be wider than shoulders
- Hands high and back
- Hands together on bat

ACTIVITY “T-BALL”

Description: With a partner or a coach/parent helper located to the side of the athlete, ask the athlete to hit the ball off a tee. Ensure the tee is placed in front of home plate and NOT on it. Teammates pick up the baseballs.

Equipment: Batting tee, various bats and balls

VARIATIONS AND PROGRESSION:

- A. Standard “t-ball”
- B. Hit the ball through a hoop

KEY POINTS

- Feet must be wider than shoulders
- Hands high and back
- Hands together on bat



RECEIVING

ACTIVITY CATCH THE BALL LIKE AN EGG (13)

[Click here](#) for video demonstration

Description: With a partner or a coach located in front of the athlete at six feet, throw the ball underhand to the athlete. Encourage athletes to catch the ball with two hands.

Place athletes opposite each other at six feet apart. With athletes on two knees, and bare handed, have them play catch throwing the ball under hand. For younger athletes, it is a good idea to match them with coaches or parent helpers.

- A. On both knees, use foam balls
- B. On both knees, use tennis balls

KEY POINTS

- Reach out for the ball
- Bring hands toward the body when catching the ball

ACTIVITY "THE CROCODILE" (14)

[Click here](#) for video demonstration

Description: Coach/parent helper instructs the athletes to simulate the proper way to receive a ground ball.

Equipment: Several types of balls (minimum one per athlete).

VARIATIONS AND PROGRESSION:

- A. Simulate receiving the ball
- B. Coach rolls a ground ball

*Do exercise with and without gloves

KEY POINTS

- Always put hands out to simulate crocodile's mouth
- "Pet" the ball when receiving it
- Feet and hands form a triangle



BASERUNNING

ACTIVITY “THE TRAIN” (25)

[Click here](#) for video demonstration

Description: Starting from home plate, athletes form a line and lightly jog around the bases, saying the name of the base as they touch it. Parent/guardians are encouraged to join in this activity!

Equipment: Set of bases (minimum of four)

VARIATIONS AND PROGRESSION:

- A. Coach leads the line
- B. Individually, done while jogging
- C. Have athletes start at different bases
- D. Individually done by running, athlete goes around the bases (same as Hit, Run and Throw)

KEY POINTS

- Athlete must learn to run the bases in the correct order
- Learn the name of each base

ACTIVITY “THE MUSICAL BASE”

Description: All athletes are jogging in the infield. On signal, athletes can run towards a designated base as mentioned by the coach/parent helper.

Equipment: Set of bases (minimum of four)

VARIATIONS AND PROGRESSION:

- A. Ask athletes to get to any base while having a maximum number of athletes at each base

KEY POINTS

- Name the bases
- Ensure safety of the athletes
- Encourage teamwork

