

PRACTICE PLAN #2 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 of four), screen (net), cones (4 to 6), hoola hoops (2 or 3), target, badminton birdies.

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:

- *Sitting, using only arms*
- *High knees*
- *Heel to back of legs*
- *Military walk*

Description: Warming up with various activities 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

PRACTICE PLAN #2 LEVEL – ON DECK/HOME PLATE (continued)

THROWING AND RECEIVING (continued)

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 "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. Three swings and hit

KEY POINTS

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

HITTING (continued)

ACTIVITY "LIGHT TOSS" (21)

[Click here](#) for video demonstration

Description: Athletes can do this in pairs or in groups of three (each group needs 6-10 baseballs). Have a partner or a coach/parent helper located at 45 degrees beside the batter, simply ask the athlete to hit the ball from an underhand toss.

Have one coach/parent helper kneel in front and to the side of the batter and toss a ball with little or no arc in front of them.

After the batter has had 10-15 quality swings, get the athletes to switch. The pitcher should keep the delivery consistent so that batters can find their timing.

Equipment: Various bats and balls

VARIATIONS AND PROGRESSION:

A. Standard T-Ball

KEY POINTS

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



THROWING

ACTIVITY “THE NET” (9)

[Click here](#) for video demonstration

Description: Divide the athletes into two equal groups on each side of the net.

Using soft balls and wiffle balls, ask athletes to pick up a ball off the ground and to throw it over the net. Both teams are throwing and receiving balls over the net for one minute before taking a break and then repeating the activity.

Equipment:

- A minimum of six soft balls or wiffle balls
- One screen, fence or net

VARIATIONS AND PROGRESSION:

- A. Athletes are located farther from the screen/fence/net

KEY POINTS

- *Make sure the grip is appropriate*
- *Glove side foot forward when throwing*

A competition can be created where the goal is to send all balls to the other side.

ACTIVITY “THE RELAY” (11)

[Click here](#) for video demonstration

Description: Split athletes into two groups (depending on the number of athletes). Each team forms a line. A hoola hoop filled with balls of different kinds is located 30 feet in front of each team, with two cones placed at 15 and 30 feet from the hoop.

On signal, one athlete goes to the hoop and from there tries to throw a ball towards each cone. Two throws are allowed. The athlete then returns to the line and the next athlete attempts the task.

Equipment:

- Several balls (2 minimum)
- Two cones per team (4-6)
- 2-3 hoops

VARIATIONS AND PROGRESSION:

Adjust distance depending on ability

- A. If athlete hits 1st cone, 1 point is awarded
2nd cone = 3 points awarded
First team to finish = 2 additional points
- B. Add various challenges. Example: between line and hoop
- C. Without cones and hoops, teams are in line. Athletes throw to a partner. First team to go all the way and back gets the point

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

