



**NEW YORK STATE WEST
YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION**



Region 1 TOPSoccer Workshop

Managing Behaviors for Individuals with Disabilities





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A matter of perception...

“Congress acknowledged that society's accumulated myths and fears about disability and disease are as handicapping as are the physical limitations that flow from actual impairment.”

-- William J. Brennan, Jr.



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Person first, disability second...

*Are we coaching an individual with a
disability or a disabled individual?*



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LOVE WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

If you have a passion for the game and love teaching it to children, then TOPSoccer holds rewards beyond your wildest dreams.



Common disabilities...

- **Developmental Disabilities**
 - Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation
- **Learning Disabilities**
- **ADHD**
- **Visual/Hearing Impairment**



Typical behavioral responses...

- Running
- Crying
- Avoiding
- Touching
- Hitting
- Screaming
- Non-compliance
- Impulsive
- Spitting
- Aggressive
- Selfish
- Biting



How to deal with it...

- Always expect the unexpected!!
- Be calm, be patient, be direct...not bossy
- Understand the person and the purpose
- Consider what is socially appropriate



How to deal with it...

- Avoid the “special education sympathy syndrome”...person first!
- Sometimes ignore, deflect or redirect...
- Do the unexpected...
- Involve the parents only if necessary



Be proactive...

- Create a positive environment that provides opportunity for success.
- Establish
 - Visual cues, boundaries, routine, constant activity, clear limits and expectations
- Establish a relationship, make eye contact. Check for understanding.
- Reward positive behaviors, celebrate success.



Commonly Observed Behaviors





Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Significant impairment in social interaction and communication.
- General need for sensory stimulation.
- Can be aggressive or self-injurious
- Obsessive-compulsive
- May lack fear of danger
- Uneven gross/fine motor skills
- May appear unresponsive



Down Syndrome

- Generally very affectionate
- Hearing and vision loss
- Speech/Language delays
- Strong willed and stubborn
- Thrives in routine
- Short attention span, highly distractible
- Don't often know their own strength.



ADHD

- Impulsive and hyperactive
 - Significant lack of focus
 - May hear but not process directions
 - Can be very pushy and loud
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- Avoid confrontation and power struggles
 - Keep them moving! Stay one step ahead!



Questions?





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Thank You!!!!!!

